

From: [Michelle](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: This statement is intended to be shared as public comment regarding the Early Childhood Millage
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:09:54 AM

Good Evening,

My name is Frances Alexander, I am a mother of one amazing little girl. While I am a recent addition to the parenting community, and as a Veteran of the United States Navy. I would like to add my two cents and hopefully allow the board to re-consider the decision of cutting the funding for the Early Childhood Millage Program.

Ironically it didn't start with my daughter, I was in a dark place as a mother. Recently I had finished my military service working information intelligence at NSA GA, I was diagnosed with Anxiety, depression and PTSD. We had just finished our move, and our daughter was not meeting the set milestones for speech. Things began to spiral, and I was losing my grip. In an almost desperate plea for help and many many sleepless nights, we contacted the Early On Program and after being enrolled with them, they provided a referral to Hollie Anderson with the Parenting Communities. Immediately we were greeted in a professional and friendly manner, it began with home visitations, providing us with one on one sessions, developmental aides, parenting handbooks and group event calendars. In turn, our mental state dramatically improved as a family, our professional relationship blossomed into a friendship and the developmental milestones were getting reached.

Thinking back to the year 2020 I can probably count on two hands how many times I left my house. With a new baby and in the midst of a pandemic, socializing wasn't exactly an option. Depression at an all time high, and developmental delays I'm sure are too, play groups and parent communication are needed most at this time. Getting rid of the bridge that connects it all, would be detrimental to the parents and their children within this community. We moved to Omena in January of 2021, majority of this area is retirees. Finding parents our age, let alone our daughters age, has been extremely difficult. If it hadn't been for Hollie and her team, we would likely still be in the same boat we were 6+ months ago.

The phrase "It takes a village to raise a child" was made for a reason. Never doubt a small group of committed citizens, they can change the world. Honestly, it's the only thing that ever has. I implore you to vote yes to funding, as it has changed my family's lives, and I know it can change many more.

Thank you,

Frances Alexander