

**From:** Chris Revell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 6:24 AM  
**To:** Clerks <[Clerks@burnaby.ca](mailto:Clerks@burnaby.ca)>; Mayor <[Mayor@burnaby.ca](mailto:Mayor@burnaby.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Puddle Jumpers

Dear Honourable Mayor Mike Hurley and City of Burnaby Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned parent of a school-aged child that is currently under the excellent care of the staff at Puddle Jumpers in their before and after school care program. We were devastated after hearing the news that the owner of the church where Puddle Jumpers is currently located had chosen to double the rent and effectively force Puddle Jumpers to relocate or close after 24 years of service to the surrounding community.

Shawna Harrison, the owner of Puddle Jumpers, committed to doing whatever she could in order to try and preserve the school-aged program which is so critical to the families whose children currently attend Puddle Jumpers. While this provided some comfort, our minds raced as to how we might find another spot if roadblocks were to emerge that would force us and dozens of other families to try and find an alternative childcare arrangement in a city where waitlists are on the order of years just to get a spot, let alone one of the calibre of care that is offered by Shawna and her amazing team.

As such, we were incredibly disheartened to learn recently that zoning may get in the way of an otherwise workable solution where Shawna has been able to find a facility that could not only accommodate this essential service, but also one that is within a reasonable distance to the schools that Puddle Jumpers services. I understand the issue has to do with parking availability for picking up and dropping off children. To me, this is a solvable problem with some guidance from City staff to instruct parents on where and how to park during dropoff and pickup. Being on site at Puddle Jumpers' current location on a daily basis for the past 3 years I struggle to imagine how the relatively spread out nature of vehicle arrivals and departures cannot be accommodated in some form.

More than just a childcare facility, Puddle Jumpers is a community where the children, parents and staff alike have developed nurturing relationships. Further, it cannot be overstated just how essential that before and after school is to working parents under normal times, let alone during a pandemic. Absent decisive action from the Mayor and Council, many children and their families will be severely impacted with no alternative that can be brought in within the next 8 weeks before the next school year begins. I would be remiss to not recognize the impact to the staff of Puddle Jumpers as well if a solution cannot be reached. I implore the City of Burnaby to find a solution to help Shawna and her team to be able to continue to provide this essential care for our children and our community.

Respectfully,  
Chris Revell