

From: Ben [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Clerks <Clerks@burnaby.ca>
Subject: appeal for daycare approval

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To Burnaby Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of Puddle Jumpers Daycare which is attempting to move from their previous location of 24 years in North Burnaby.

The city has a desperate shortage of daycare spaces, and I have always wondered why in a functioning economy business wouldn't step up and meet the demand.

Seeing the amount of regulations and hoops to jump through as Puddle Jumpers has tried to get approval at their new location at Burnaby North Baptist Church has answered those questions. I appreciate these regulations are in place to ultimately protect our kids, but at some point they prevent anything from getting done. Parents are desperate for daycare. In one of the least affordable regions in the world there are many, many families without a stay at home parent. Losing a daycare spot (or not finding an open slot in the first place) is devastating.

As a customer of Puddle Jumpers, my child and our possible work stability will be impacted by their potential closure. The current roadblock is lack of street parking at the potential new location. I can assure you 100% that every desperate parent would sign a waiver to walk a kilometer in the rain everyday from a remote parking location if it meant they maintained a daycare spot. Please reconsider this restriction in this case. These families are counting on child care.

Longer term, I urge the government to consider supporting families in this regard - either through easing restrictions or subsidizing the formation of new childcare centres. Raising a family in this very expensive city becomes harder and more expensive every year.

Thank you for reading,
Ben Meinhardt