

From: Alen Vitasovic [REDACTED]
Sent: June-21-21 3:56 PM
To: Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Puddle Jumpers/Splashers Childcare relocation/reopening

Dear Mayor Hurley

We are writing you this letter in hopes of drawing attention to a major issue we are currently faced with, one that is causing a lot of stress not only for us, but for a lot of families in our community.

A few months ago we received news from our current before-and-after-school provider, Puddle Jumpers, about the closure of the location our nine-year-old daughter is currently attending. The issue is with their landlord who decided to significantly increase the rent for the premises (basically double it). It was a very disappointing development as Puddle Jumpers Daycare has been in that location for over 24 years, providing a much needed and extremely scarce service to the community.

We have been happy and proud residents of Burnaby Heights for the past 8 years. Our daughter started attending Puddle Jumpers Childcare six years ago at the age of three. Puddle Jumpers provided us with amazing service. Their staff, including the owner, have always been of top quality and we can, with full confidence, say that the big part of why we have this amazingly kind, smart and strong young lady today is because of the great guidance and support we got in raising her, from them. Not only that, but Puddle Jumpers has always been very budget-friendly and affordable. All of this, as I'm sure you're aware, is extremely hard to find these days and the shut down of Puddle Jumpers has been a huge hit on many families in the neighbourhood.

We are now going into a very stressful summer. We are both working full time and with the almost certain return to offices in the fall, we absolutely need before and after school care for our daughter and that's almost impossible to find in our community. Options are more than limited and the clock is ticking, and I'm sure you can understand the pressure this uncertainty is putting on us.

Recently we received a ray of hope as they were able to find a location to relocate the before and after school program to Burnaby North Baptist Church at 3977 Albert Street, which is very close to Gilmore Community School our child is attending. However, it seems like there are some issues and concerns in the way of approval, related to zoning and parking in the area. As we are all committed to improving the current, not so ideal state of childcare in our communities, we are sure this is something that can be addressed to help our families and children with much-needed service.

We kindly ask you to consider this case at your earliest convenience and appreciate the urgency. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Alen and Kori Vitasovic