

From: Bo Jiang <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, June 26, 2021 10:30 AM
To: Clerks <Clerks@burnaby.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Puddle Jumpers Daycare Relocation Application

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Dear Mayor Hurley and Burnaby City Council,

I'm writing with respect to a situation that you've likely been apprised of and has a significant impact on many children and their families in the Willingdon Heights and Burnaby Heights neighbourhoods.

For over 24 years, Puddle Jumpers Daycare has provided essential daycare and after school services, throughout the school year and during the summer months.

As parents of two young children at Kitchener Elementary, my wife and I are extremely grateful that our kids have been able to attend Puddle Jumpers the last four years. Not only does it allow us the time to focus on our work so we can provide for our family, it's also allowed our children to grow and build relationships in a safe environment.

Up until now, Puddle Jumpers Daycare has operated out of Willingdon Heights United Church. Unfortunately, the church has decided to substantially increase rent, making it no longer financially feasible for Puddle Jumpers to continue providing its valued services there.

Through tireless energy and effort from Shawna Harrison (owner of Puddle Jumpers), a potential new location at Burnaby Baptist Church has surfaced. Shawna has been working with the city to get approval for this location, but as it stands, some roadblocks have arisen that could eliminate this possibility.

These include the following concerns:

- lack of parking (although there's plenty of street parking)
- church is zoned for residential (for context, Willingdon Heights Church is in residential area as well)
- no loading bay at the church

There are already so few childcare spaces available in North Burnaby. With only two more months before Puddle Jumpers has to close, and with a new school year beginning in September, many families will be left without childcare in the near future. As BC anticipates being in Phase 4 of its re-opening at that time, most parents will need to go back to their work offices, making it more crucial that their children are looked after.

I respectfully request that, at your next council meeting, that you discuss possible workarounds so this new location may be approved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Bo Jiang