



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

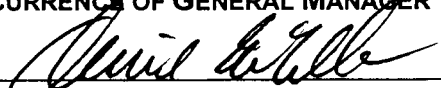
TO: Planning Committee
FROM: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
RE: **2000 Annual Report & 2001 - 2002 Work Program**
Child Care Development Board

DATE: April 6, 2001
FILE: 0100-20-CCDE1-01

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the 2001-2002 Work Program (attached to the report dated April 6, 2001 from the Manager, Policy Planning) be approved.
2. Council provide:
 - (1) \$25,000 for a child care needs assessment study, and
 - (2) \$100,000 for the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund.


Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER


STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The Child Care Development Board has prepared its 2000 Annual Report and 2001 - 2002 Work Plan, in accordance with its restructuring approved by Council in September 2000.

ANALYSIS

A For 2000

1. Membership

With the latest appointments to the Child Care Development Board the group now feels that its membership is representative of a broader cross section of the Child Care community. One vacancy remains on the Board.

2. Goals of the Child Care Development Board

The Child Care Development Board reviewed its goals and have revised them as noted in **Attachment 1**, in line with the refocused Board mandate approved by Council earlier.

B For 2001 - 2002

1. 2001/2002 Work Plan

The Child Care Development Board has prepared the attached work plan as outlined in **Attachment 2**, which proposes the following activities:

a) Child Care Month:

This is an annual event which is held each May to raise awareness of child care and children in the community and includes:

- a children's parade,
- a recognition dinner for child care providers in the community, and
- a Child Care Facilities Open House followed by refreshments at the new City Hall cafeteria.

b) Child Care Needs Assessment – 2001 Update:

- The original Child Care Needs Assessment was completed in July 1995, and has served the City well as a Guide to priorities for development. Much has been achieved.
- With the recent introduction of the Provincial Child Care Plan to be phased in over 5 years, the present situation has changed.
- The Child Care Development Board's proposed 2001 needs assessment update is very necessary and timely because it would identify:
 - what the Richmond issues and needs are at present, and
 - where City initiatives should be directed to take advantage of provincial and federal programs.
- It would assist the City in managing child care needs for at least the next 5 years.
- The 2001 child care needs assessment may cost up to \$25,000 (see **Attachment 3**).

c) Public Forum

The Board is proposing to use the proposed needs assessment as an opportunity for the community to have input into issues and needs identification.

d) Monitoring of Federal and Provincial Initiatives
The Board would continue to report and advise Council of the impacts of senior government initiatives which relate to child care in the community.

e) Support
Support for new initiatives to address the child care needs of families as they may arise.

2. City's Child Care Development Fund

- The Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund was set up to assist in funding child care facility capital items.
- It demonstrates City leadership and support for children and initiatives.
- To date, this fund has enabled Council to assist in providing needed child care equipment in child care facilities.
- Currently, the fund is empty.
- To address future child care needs, additional dollars should be added to the Reserve:
 - by the City (e.g., \$100,000), and
 - through partnerships which will continue to be explored.

3. 2001 CCD Board Funding Request Summary

- Earlier, Planning Committee suggested that the Board pursue casino funding for child care in 2001.
- Accordingly the Board has requested (see **Attachment 3**), from the casino fund:
 - \$25,000 - for the 2001 Needs Assessment (priority item), and
 - \$100,000 - for the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund.
- It is understood that Council will determine the actual amount during its 2001 Budget discussions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Currently, there has been no funding allocation into the 2001 annual operating budget.

The CCD Board is requesting:

- \$25,000 - for the 2001 Needs Assessment (priority item), and
- \$100,000 - for the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund.

CONCLUSION

The Child Care Development Board has prepared its Annual Report and Work Program.

The Board is requesting child care funding in 2001:

- for a need assessment study, and
- for the Reserve.

These initiatives are consistent with achieving an appealing livable and well managed city.


Terry Crowe, Manager
Policy Planning Department
TTC:ttc

CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MISSION STATEMENT

To plan, implement and support the development of quality, affordable and accessible child care in the City of Richmond

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To work closely with the Richmond community to determine the status of child care
2. To report to Council annually on the current state of child care in Richmond, with recommendations for City action as appropriate
3. To keep Council well informed about child care issues at the provincial and national levels
4. To advise Council:
 - on child care funding and policy issues
 - on the administration of the Child Care Development fund
 - in the planning and development of any new City owned child care centres, and to provide assistance in set up and operator selection
5. To support the development of child care spaces in Richmond, in coordination with the City, the School Board, existing and potential operators, government, developers, employers and the community
6. To increase public awareness of child care issues through education and proactive involvement in the community

**Richmond Child Care Development Board
Working Plan 2001/02**

At the January 18 meeting of the Child Care Development Board, members voted to adopt the following working plan.

- **To undertake a public awareness project in celebration of Child Care Month.** Projects will be designed to recognize the City's commitment as an active partner in the development and maintenance of a comprehensive child care system in Richmond. **Annually - May**
- **To review the procedures currently in place for ranking applications for funding from the Statutory Reserve Fund.** To ensure that appropriate criteria are in place for making recommendations to Council. To discuss with Council any recommended changes to the existing criteria. **Spring, 2001**
- **To oversee the updating of the child care needs assessment.** **Fall, 2001**
- **To plan a bi-annual event for the child care community.** The purpose of this event is to seek and provide information regarding the changing needs of families in Richmond while supporting networking and professional development within the child care community. The content and focus of this event will directly relate to the needs assessment. **Bi-annually – Fall**
- **To actively exchange information with related sources within the community by building partnerships with other groups and exploring new avenues for information exchange.** **On-going**
- **To monitor Federal and Provincial child care issues and inform Council.** **On-going**
- **To support new initiatives which address identified needs of families in Richmond.** **On-going**

To: Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt and Richmond City Council
City of Richmond

From: The Child Care Development Board

Regarding: Disbursement of casino revenue

Cc: Councillor Harold Steves

The Child Care Development Board wishes to acknowledge the City's long term commitment to the provision of quality child care services to families in Richmond. We believe that the provision of quality child care is an integral part of community planning and a key building block towards the creation of livable, family oriented communities. The benefits of quality child care for children, families, employers, communities and society as a whole have been well documented.

The Board requests that Richmond City Council use the existing Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund to address requests for capital grants for the ongoing development and support of quality child care services by allocating \$100,000 of the casino revenues to the fund this year. The Board requests an additional \$25,000 for special projects to be used to update the 1995 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment.

We believe this is an opportune time for Richmond City Council to set aside funds in order to respond quickly to the new initiatives on the horizon. By designating funds specifically for child care now, the City will be demonstrating a significant commitment to future action. The City of Richmond has demonstrated its responsiveness to the needs of families in the past. There are still many unmet needs that were identified in 1995, such as the shortage of infants and toddler care and of kindercare and of school age programs. In November 1999, care for these age groups was again identified as a priority at the community consultation on child care issues in Richmond. We continue to receive anecdotal reports of hopelessly long waiting lists in infant and toddler programs for few spaces. The shortage of spaces is in part due to the cost to the operators of providing this type of care. The Provincial government has indicated its intention to address affordability for all types of care and has embarked upon a five year plan to create a comprehensive, publicly funded, child care system. This provides a unique opportunity for the City and nonprofit child care operators to work in partnership, in order to respond to the growing and changing needs of families. Our goal is to have a stable, comprehensive system of quality child care services for families in Richmond.

We believe that the City, through the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund, can play a continuing role which may take the form of capital grants to support the following:

- equipment and furnishings for the expansion of existing programs to provide kindercare and school age care

- support for the development of additional child care services in underserved areas as identified in an updated needs assessment
- repair and replacement of equipment, furnishing and playgrounds in existing sites
- requests that enhance affordability, accessibility and quality of child care services

The first step in the Provincial government's plan, effective January 2001, is to subsidize the cost of operating kindercare and school age child care and to lower fees for parents. As the affordability barrier is lifted the demand will increase, making accessibility to care the limiting factor for many families. Many child care operators would be willing to offer this type of care, but the start up costs for capital items is considerable. If funds allocated to the Child Care Statutory Reserve were available for this, operators would be able to expand their existing services thereby creating needed kindercare and school age spaces.

We encourage council to also support the request for special project funds in order to hire a consultant to update the Child Care Needs Assessment. This will allow Richmond to respond in the most efficient manner possible as the publicly funded system continues to unfold at the Provincial level.

The Board remains committed to working responsibly with council to continue to make Richmond a caring, progressive community. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Further questions should be directed to Kathy Stoessl, Co-chair, Child Care Development Board, 323-5767 (w) or 275-5458 (h).