

TO: MAYOR & EACH
COUNCILLOR
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

File: RZ 16-723761

May 12, 2016

Mayor and Councillors
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

RE: REZONING IN THE STEVESTON AREA

On April 5, 2016, there was an article in the Richmond News regarding the plight of Generation Daycare, located in Steveston at 12320 Trites Road. The new landlord has submitted a rezoning application to redevelop the property into housing units and subsequently served eviction notices to all their tenants. One of those tenants is Generation Out of School Care which provides out of school care for 50 children who attend Homma Elementary School.

The article discussed the feelings of the child care business owner and the parents/clients. Since then there has been a lot of discussion in the media, in community meetings and on community chat boards about family services being eliminated to accommodate more and more housing.

This topic was addressed at the Child Care Development Advisory Committee on April 13, 2016. The members of the Committee along with the Council Liaison, Councillor Alexa Loo, discussed how to address the displacement of this child care program given that the City of Richmond is committed in its Official Community Plan to providing accessible child care for all its citizens.

It has also come to our attention that there is another industrial complex on the east side of No.2 Road and just north of London Road that has been vacated and is up for rezoning. It is dismal to see areas within Steveston that are cited for industrial land use being rezoned, resulting in businesses having to relocate to other parts of the city and the community losing its services.

It is also becoming increasingly challenging finding affordable lease space in Steveston. Consequently businesses that serve this community, especially child care which is one of the City's priorities, are forced to shut their doors leaving the working parents with no alternatives. This is the scenario that has now befallen the community that relies on Generation Daycare to provide their children with safe, affordable care, walking them to and from Homma Elementary school whilst their parents are at work.

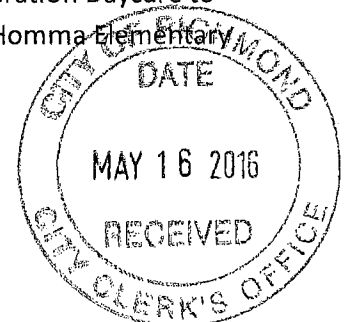
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Child Care Development Advisory Committee

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Re: Rezoning in Steveston Area

The Child Care Development Advisory Committee therefore recommends the following be considered by Council when an application for rezoning is made in an industrial area, especially where there is a child care center:

1. Assess and re-evaluate the Steveston Area Plan to ensure existing child care programs are not displaced or ensure their services can be accommodated in another Steveston location.
2. Make some allowances to accommodate the displaced children within the vicinity so that they do not have to commute or be transported from one area to another when rezoning.
3. Give close consideration to rezoning applications that would result in the loss of child care spaces.
4. Be aware of all existing child care programs that could be displaced as a result of implementing the Steveston Area Plan so that this does not become an issue in future rezoning and building applications.

The Child Care Development Advisory Committee would truly appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 604-619-1772.

Yours Sincerely,



Linda Shirley

Chair

City of Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee

CC: Generation Out of School Care