

MOTION

5. Family Friendly Vancouver: Citywide Policy to Fast Track and Expedite Projects that Include New Childcare Centres in the City of Vancouver

On September 18, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services on September 19, 2018, as Unfinished Business.

MOVER: Councillor De Genova

SECONDER: Councillor Ball

WHEREAS:

1. Vancouver is facing an affordability crisis. A lack of affordable housing and affordable childcare are causing families to move away and out of the City of Vancouver;
2. In 2018 the Provincial Government released “Childcare B.C., Caring For Kids, Lifting Up Families: The Path To Universal Childcare”. The document states “Vancouver is one of the most expensive cities for Childcare with a median fee of \$1,250 per month for infant and toddler care.” The document also commits to providing grants to local governments in British Columbia to support building new child care spaces and create plans to inform local needs;
3. June 26, 2018, The City of Vancouver issued a press release celebrating 1064 new child care spaces. On the City of Vancouver website, Mayor Gregor Robertson is stated as saying “Making sure that families have access to affordable childcare is a key part of building a healthy, inclusive city and helps set our kids up for success now and down the road”;
4. The City of Vancouver Document “Technical Guidelines” published by Real Estate and Facilities Management in May of 2018 states that “Development Permits may be required for new childcare facilities. Building and Occupancy Permits are required for all new childcare facilities;
5. Child Care facilities Childcare License will need to be obtained by the Childcare Operator from Community Care Facilities Licensing, a department of Vancouver Coastal Health, before an Occupancy Permit can be obtained. No where in the document does it state that there is an policy or initiate for a streamlined or expedited process for new childcare facilities;
6. The City of Vancouver Document “Steps for Establishing a Child Care Centre in an Existing Building” published by the Social Development Department was last updated in 2008;
7. The City of Vancouver website page “Developing a childcare centre” states “Staff work with developers, architects, landscape architects, and early childhood educators to make sure that every new center includes urban design best practices, and contributes to a child’s mental and physical development.” There is no mention of incentives or expediting or streamlining permits or processes for new child care facilities in the City of Vancouver;

8. The City of Vancouver lists in item 5. b) in the City of Vancouver Fee for a Class V (Air Space) Parcel “for developments having a Floor Space Ratio (FSR) of 3.0 or less, or where the application is solely for the purpose of creating air space parcels to secure separate tenure for public benefits such as libraries, theatres and other cultural amenities, for-profit affordable rental housing, social housing or day care” to cost \$42,600.00 This fee does only covers the City of Vancouver fee and is subsequent to any fees the applicant may incur in creating the air space parcel;
9. The City of Vancouver Webpage “Creating and Protecting Rental Housing” lists Rental 100 Policy, stating “Eligible incentives including: Development cost levy (DCL) waiver, Parking requirement reductions, Relaxation of unit size to 320 square feet (provided the design and location meet the City’s liveability criteria), Additional density beyond what is available under existing zoning (for projects requiring a rezoning), Concurrent processing (for projects requiring a rezoning)”.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to implement a policy to specifically encourage applicants to consider the development of projects that include childcare facilities and offer incentives to applicants, similar to incentives offered in the City of Vancouver Rental 100: Secured Market Rental Policy.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to consider a policy where any residential rental housing projects built on Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency and City of Vancouver owned land, include child care facilities as an amenity when appropriate.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to review the City of Vancouver fees, including but not limited to air space parcels and consider waiving or reducing fees charged for the development of child care facilities;

FURTHER THAT, staff also consider fast tracking and expediting the process for development applications that have been approved by Council and include child care facilities.

- D. THAT Council direct staff to work with Vancouver Coastal Health and the British Columbia Provincial government to streamline and expedite permit and licensing processes for child care facilities in the City of Vancouver.

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