

MOTION ON NOTICE

4. Building a Family Friendly Vancouver: Affordable Child Care

SUBMITTED BY: Councillor De Genova

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is facing an affordability crisis. A lack of affordable housing and affordable childcare are limiting the abilities of families to continue to live in 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 creating plans to inform local needs;
3. On 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. A Child Care Facility’s 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. Nowhere in the document does it state that there is a policy to streamline and expedite the processes associated with permits and licensing 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 the processes for childcare facilities in Vancouver.

8. On September 19, 2018, the motion entitled “Family Friendly Vancouver: Citywide Policy to Fast Track and Expedite Projects that include new Child Care Centres in the City of Vancouver” was referred to staff. It is anticipated that staff will report back to Council in June 2019.
9. On September 2018, the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development issued a press release titled “Partnerships give B.C. families quicker access to child care”. The release states “Municipal and regional government in B.C. are eligible for up to \$1 million per project through the new Community Child Care Space Creation Program. Priority will be given to projects that build spaces that serve infants and toddlers, offer care outside of regular business hours, are operated by a public body or non-profit, and/or benefit underserved populations”.
10. Phase 1 Actions of the Women’s Equity Strategy include “Identify child-friendly provisions to accommodate participation by families with children at Council and public hearings at City Hall.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council directs the City of Vancouver staff to formally contact the appropriate Ministry of Children and Family Development staff to discuss opportunities for the City of Vancouver to secure funding for future projects from the Community Child Care Space Creation Program and report back to Council within the potential for provincial funding.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to explore ways the City of Vancouver can work with organizations and agencies including Vancouver Coastal Health and the B.C. government to streamline and expedite the processes associated with permits and licensing for child care facilities in Vancouver.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to explore a program to create incentives for applicants to include child care in future developments and report back to Council in spring of 2019; however, if funding from senior levels of government becomes available sooner, that staff prioritize and expedite a report and any recommendations to Council
- D. THAT Council direct staff to consider purpose-built child care, including temporary structures similar to modular housing when appropriate.

FURTHER THAT staff consider requirements for child care facilities to be included; when appropriate, on any development of City Owned Land.

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