

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 10/15/2023 5:20:33 PM
Subject: Douglas Academy - messaging

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

We understand that you may be continuing to receive media and constituent questions on the matter regarding Douglas Park Academy and childcare facilities in residential zones. Staff have responded to the Applicant since the last memo and will continue to work with them on their application.

As always, you can refer media questions to media@vancouver.ca. However, should you wish to reply to media or constituents directly, below are some key messages for your consideration:

- The City recognizes that accessible, affordable, quality childcare is vital to life in our city and through zoning by-laws has enabled childcare facilities as a secondary use in residential buildings, as long as the primary use of the building is still for housing.
- In a City experiencing a housing crisis, it is important to preserve housing stock while balancing the need for childcare facilities. The current by-laws ensure that much-needed housing stock is not converted to commercial operations such as childcare facilities resulting in an accidental loss of housing.
- The health and safety of children as well as pedestrian safety of the neighbourhood is of the utmost importance to the City. A residential building with more than 8 childcare spaces would require significant building safety and fire code upgrades to ensure the health and safety of children attending the facility and to safeguard pedestrian safety in the area during busy drop-off and pick-up hours.
- The City recognizes the current childcare definition and associated zoning by-laws may be unclear. Staff are working on ways to clarify and align the original intent of the definition, consistent with the Government of BC and other jurisdictions in the Lower Mainland, to enable Family Childcare or In-Home Multi-Age care to be provided in residential zones. Both of these license types require childcare to be provided within a licensee's personal residence.
- Childcare is primarily the responsibility of the Provincial government, the City of Vancouver has created over 5,000 licensed childcare spaces to date. This translates to the overall City contribution of 60% of all licensed spaces for children under 3 years, and 35% of all existing licensed childcare spaces for children aged 0-12 years.
- There are currently over 3,000 new childcare spaces for 0-5 year olds in the planning and development pipeline in the City of Vancouver.

If you require further information please reach out directly to Sandra Singh.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətəʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.