

Subject: RE: Little Rascals Daycare

Date: Mon, 7 Apr 2003 11:04:31 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "Kathleen Hill" <kghill@telus.net>

CC: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Directors Team" <managecomm@dnv.org>

Dear Ms Hill:

The present delay in the Little Rascal agreement occurred because the District Mayor and management failed to take into account that under the Local Government Act a municipality does not have the power to make a twenty year agreement with any organization without taking it to referendum and or provide an opportunity for a counter petition. This is notwithstanding that some persons deny this. This is the second time that the District blundered for the same reasons.

Funding for childcare is NOT a municipal responsibility as you seem to believe nor is it a factor in the delay as far as the District is concerned. The District does provide however some funding towards childcare but NOT in the form of direct support for either childcare facilities or individuals per se in the District. The same is true by the City for childcare in the City. On the other hand the District is subsidizing the Little Rascal facility by making land available free of charge for 20 years. This is definitely a subsidy. You may not be aware however, that in the rest of the developed world, childcare is universal and part of the education system. In Europe for instance this has been in place since 1919. We are truly backward in this regard. On the other hand we do have more SUV'S. This is just by the bye of course.

Also we do not ask whether individual childcare facilities such as Little Rascal allow children from the City. If this question was raised than it was purely for purposes of information. I was somewhat perplexed however by your statement that the District Taxpayers should fund childcare for the City because people residing in the City support business in the District. This is a specious argument to say the least since the argument could also be made that District residents also shop in the City.

The District is already subsidizing the City on an enormous scale in the form of playing fields of which there are 54 in the District and only 9 in the City at least in one category just by way of example. This is the case even-though the City has 50 % of the population of the District. There is also the question of recreation facilities of which the District has 4 large facilities as against one in the City. The City does not provide any funding for capital maintenance. There is a saying which goes somewhat like this - the City is building the high-rises and the District is providing the parks and the playing fields free of charge. At the same time any and all overtures toward amalgamation of the two jurisdictions has been ridiculed by the City. To put it bluntly, the District taxpayers are being "played for suckers" by the City fathers. But I do not blame the City since this is the fault of the District for allowing it rather than the fault of the City for taking advantage of the "stupidity" of the District Council. Forgive me for being so blunt.

But once again this is just by the bye and has nothing to do with the delay of the Little Rascal Childcare facility. The District after having "goofed" again, will now provide an opportunity for a counter petition which should have been done in the first place and if it is approved by District residents which it undoubtedly will, the Little Rascal project should be able to proceed as early as the middle of May of this year. I hope this will clarify the situation for you.

Thank you,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathleen Hill [<mailto:kghill@telus.net>]

Sent: Sunday, April 06, 2003 1:58 PM

To: Ernie Crist

Subject: Little Rascals Daycare

I am writing to express my concern about the funding for Little Rascals Daycare Centre. We are a family who has lived in the District for 30 years. Our concern is for a child in our family whose single mother totally relies on it's continuation. Although they live on the street that divides the City from the District, they support all the surrounding businesses, as well as her son's soccer and baseball clubs.

We are all citizens of the; North Shore and our needs should not be determined by municipal boundaries.

Little Rascals Daycare has a 22 year history in North Vancouver and should be supported. It is an excellent, affordable Daycare for those who need it. Probably the only one in this area.

Gerald and Kathleen Hill



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