
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Jessyca Bonilla - Concerns About School Zones - CK 5200-5

From: Jess Bonilla <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Councillor's Office <Councillors.Office@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Concerns About School Zones

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To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

I would like to raise a concern about the council's decision to remove school zones from around high schools. While I understand the reasoning behind this decision, it is important to note that several high schools have attached early learning and child care centres. These are high quality programs dedicated to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children.

There are at least six early learning and child care centres in Saskatoon that will be directly affected by the decision to remove school zones from around high schools. This accounts for hundreds of families and nearly 210 children. The Saskatoon Early Childhood Education Demonstration Centre is located on the major collector roadway of Avenue W North between two major arterial roadways, 33rd Street and 22nd Street. Drivers are often seen speeding past our drop-off zone and we have had incidents in the past of vehicles being struck due to speeding in an already marked school zone.

Children make up about 6.4% of our population in Saskatoon (Census Canada, 2016), but they represent 100% of our future. Following several tragedies of children being struck by vehicles in the last ten years, I hope that the City will reconsider a decision that puts children's lives at risk.

Small children do not understand the dangers of vehicles and "tend to think vehicles can stop instantly and may begin crossing before it is safe to do so" (SGI, 2022). And while adults and "high school age [pedestrians] are typically better able to understand traffic and control their own movements" (City of Saskatoon, 2021), the presence of early learning and child care programs means young children are present, regardless of the type of school surrounding these programs.

The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was signed in 1990. Canada is party to international human rights conventions, such as the UNCRC, in an essential move to protect the safety and security of children. Article 3 of the UNCRC "places the best interests of children as the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults, including those who are involved in making decisions related to budgets, policy and the law, should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children" (Government of Canada, 2017). As a founding member of the United Nations, it is my hope that Canada, and all its municipalities, will honor and respect all UN charters and conventions. Especially when it comes to the safety of our youngest citizens.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Jessyca Bonilla (she/her)
ECE Diploma – Level III
Early Childhood Educator

Saskatoon Early Childhood Education Demonstration Centre
440 Avenue W North Saskatoon, SK. S7L 1C1

We respectfully acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 6 Territory & the Homeland of the Métis. We commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.