

**Pamela Martin**

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**From:** Terri [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** February 9, 2019 3:49 PM  
**To:** Public Hearings  
**Subject:** Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No.1178) No,19-002  
**Attachments:** JBAA.pdf

To: Mayor and Council,

Attached please find my comments regarding the above-mentioned Amendment Bylaw. Unfortunately I am not able to attend the City council meeting on February 14th, 2019.

I trust that my attached letter will be read and be a part of the discussions regarding this proposed amendment bylaw change.

Sincerely,

Terri Foster  
210 Simcoe Street  
Victoria, B. C. V8V 1K7  
[REDACTED]

Regarding : Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment Below (No. 1178) No. 19.002

This letter is in reference to the above mentioned zoning amendment.

First, I would like to say that I am in favour of additional day care facilities. I think that the James Bay Athletic Association provides an excellent facility for the Montessori Day care, it's rugby clubs and provides other good services to the community.

- As a neighbour living in the community for the past 9 years and directly across the street from the JBAA I do have a few comments:
- This is the second day care facility within a block. The JBAA/ Montessori facility started with 8 spaces and I believe it is now asking for it to be increased to 16...could you please confirm, also is there a cap on the number of spaces? I would also like to know if there is any consideration being given to weekend or evening day care?
- When 149 Montreal is built, it will have a 32 child capacity making the total day care within a block of 48 children. This is going to significantly increase the traffic in the area twice a day during peak times. Studies have been done, by the police, that indicate around schools and parent drop off zones there is an increase in speeding due to parents rushing to drop off their children and get to work. There has been many concerns raised by the neighbours in the area and on Montreal Street regarding the speed that cars travel on that street. A variety of speed signs and speed bumps have been installed to slow the traffic down. The traffic on Montreal increases significantly during the Cruise Ship season with taxis and other forms of transportation. There appears to be plenty of parking at the park and the JBAA , I would appreciate it if the day care staff/JBAA would suggest to their parents to use the designated parking areas and not the lane way.
- I would also like to request that the JBAA put up some no smoking signs and ensure that the groups renting their facility be made aware that there is no smoking allowed.....I realize that this won't stop the people from standing in the lane or on the grass smoking so could they please also request, that they pick up their butts. This is an area that many children and people in the community use and walk by,.... it would be nice not to see it littered with butts.
- I would also appreciate it if the JBAA would ask the exercise class on Saturday morning to either keep the windows and doors closed or turn their music down just a notch. I appreciate that this is a great class, well attended and only for an hour or so.... however the music is so loud that I can hear it in my house...other people that live in the neighbourhood have also commented on the level of the music.

**Pamela Martin**

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**From:** Michelle Seidel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** February 10, 2019 2:02 PM  
**To:** Public Hearings  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Montessori application, February 14, 2019

Dear Council,

I am writing in support of the application for rezoning of Blue Heron Montessori. I regret that I cannot attend in person, but as the mother of a 2 year old, council meetings are at bedtime.

I have thus far contacted 46 daycares in the local area, from a list provided by the Childcare Resource Centre. None of them have room, and many of them aren't even taking waiting lists.

I am left struggling trying to be able to work and juggling among babysitters and smaller bits of contract work. Through Facebook I was able to find a few mums taking in children with their own kids, in places like View Royal and Oak Bay, which is quite a drive considering that I live in James Bay (around the corner from the site of Blue Heron Montessori, in fact). None of these places have worked out, and all of the providers quit on us, ranging from the first day to the fourth day. Issues ranged from illness, to my child being too young to keep up with the others, to a feeling that my child wasn't settling in.

My child has no special needs or behavioral issues. He is a regular, active, curious boy who needs stimulation and a caring environment. The lack of childcare options in the city means that childcare providers can be extremely picky about the children they will take on.

None of these places offered the sort of educational enrichment offered by Blue Heron Montessori.

I am disheartened to learn of the struggle that Blue Heron has had to overcome to be able to offer places, and I ask that the path be paved to help them as soon as possible as they are desperately needed in this city.

Sincerely,  
Michelle

## Lucas De Amaral

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**From:** Kristina Leach [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** February 13, 2019 8:59 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** In support of Rezoning for 205 Simcoe

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

I am writing you in enthusiastic support of the rezoning for 205 Simcoe Street. As is the case for any parent, the education and care of my child is of utmost importance. Blue Heron Montessori, the child care operator at 205 Simcoe, fulfills my highest expectations, and does so in a space that is underused during the weekdays. It is an excellent example of a Victoria-grown solution to both land-use efficiency in our high-cost market, and the kind of Early Childhood Education the city should be striving to create.

Thanks to a great deal of luck and advance planning (including getting on lists when our son was 6 weeks old), we have managed to keep our child in high quality care for the last 3 years, so when we speak to what is desirable, we do so with some perspective. To us this has meant care provided by fully qualified ECEs who are paid and treated fairly. While it is true that parents can provide one kind of “best” care for their children, we have always been a big believers in the power of care provided by experts. To be frank, the predominant feeling we’ve had when dropping off our child is one of relief: relief that, for at least for part of the day, someone who actually knows what they are doing is caring for our child. Every parent deserves this when leaving their child with others.

But high-quality Early Childhood Education does more than just assure parents. The expertise of experienced ECEs helps us to see our child’s development, their strengths and skills, as well as those areas where are children may need more practice. The clear vision they provide is irreplaceable. It helps us focus on real issues rather than ones we may become sensitized to through as society barrages us with messages about what our children should be able to do and when (often to get us to buy something).

Even more than this stabilizing influence, however, the importance of the social and emotional education provided by high quality Early Childhood Education can not be underestimated. As someone involved in a higher education, I can tell you that social interaction fluency is being held up as one of the most important skills our future society. As a parent, it is not possible for me to create the same situation provided by schools like Blue Heron. The way they attend to our children’s emotional state, and our children’s ability to advocate for and articulate their own emotional needs, as well as accommodate the needs of others is irreplaceable. It is also something that I cannot do as a parent because of the power differential my presence causes in any social situation my child is in, not to mention the ways my own emotional state can encumber my ability to provide this kind of teaching. Even among the best schools, the emotional focus provided by Blue Heron is rare.

I know that the city understands the importance of child care and has already taken many steps to increase child care spots across the city. I hope that in schools like Blue Heron, the city might also start to see the kind of bar that can be set for Early Childhood Education. Every child deserves this kind of education, not just daycare. As a result we hope the City will support the expansion of their enrollment as fully and quickly as is possible.

Best regards,  
Brett & Kristina Leach

**Pamela Martin**

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**From:** maeva gauthier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** February 13, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** Public Hearings  
**Cc:** Crawford, David (Victoria, BC)  
**Subject:** Input for Blue Heron Montessori Preschool

Hello,

We would like to provide our input on the public hearing happening tomorrow for Blue Heron Montessori Preschool in support of the expansion. Our 4 year-old son started in September 2018 when they just opened their space and we have been impressed by the quality of their care, the contagious passion they pour into their work and the beautiful space they have. Our child is thriving there and we feel very supported as parents. We hope that more parents can have access to this childcare by having more children allowed into their space. They bring a lot of positive energy into their work and their desire to expand to support more families makes so much sense in a city where daycare space is a challenge. Feel free to connect with us if you have any questions.

All the best,

Maeva Gauthier and David Crawford  
Parents of a 4 year-old boy and a 4 months old girl

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