

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

YMCA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM IN MILLER CENTER

In the year Two Thousand Ten.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Center, a not-for-profit institution located in Burlington issued a report in 2002 called the Economic Impact of Vermont’s Child Care Industry. That Report found as follows: 1) That childcare supports the Vermont economy by pumping money into local communities, by supporting working families, by creating jobs and generating taxes through employment and the purchase of goods and services; 2) As the number of two-wage-earner families and women-headed households has increased, childcare has become an essential social infrastructure, enabling parents to enter and remain in the workforce; 3) An insufficient supply of reliable, affordable, and accessible child care negatively impacts Vermont’s economy; 4) There is a readily growing body of scientific evidence that the quality of children’s social and environmental experience lays the groundwork for future success in school and life; and 5) For many small businesses in Vermont, publicly funded child care is essential.

WHEREAS, the Greater Burlington YMCA (the “Y”) is Vermont’s largest provider of childcare programs and operates daycare and preschool programs throughout Chittenden and Franklin Counties.

WHEREAS, the Y operated a preschool program in several of the Edmunds Elementary classrooms for approximately 23 years before being asked to relocate starting in the Fall of 2010 as a result of Burlington School District program expansion. This resulted in the loss of

36 YMCA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM IN MILLER CENTER
37

38 approximately 32 preschool slots, six full time preschool teachers and other paid and unpaid
39 support staff.

40 WHEREAS, the Y has been negotiating with the City on possibly utilizing the
41 approximately 2200 square feet of unused, unfinished space in the new Miller Center.

42 WHEREAS, negotiations on the Y's use of the Miller Center have come to an impasse
43 because of questions about what entity should bear the costs of retrofitting the unused space in
44 the Miller Center. This is true even though the City has already allocated approximately \$32,000
45 (thirty-two thousand dollars) towards retrofitting the space, however approximately another
46 \$40,000 - \$45,000 (forty to forty-five thousand) is needed to allow the space to accommodate the
47 Ys specifications for a preschool program.

48 WHEREAS, several city departments, including Burlington Police Department,
49 recognize that there is an urgent need to provide quality daycare and preschool to allow
50 employees to return to work after the birth of a child. In addition, Parks and Recreation Director
51 Mari Steinbach and Immediate Past Parks Commission Chair Steve Allen, both support the use
52 of the Miller Center by the Y to meet the preschool and childcare needs of the community.

53 WHEREAS, for the past several years the City has annually allocated \$75,000.00
54 (seventy-five thousand dollars) to the not-for-profit senior centers. The Council recognizes that
55 it is equally important to provide and help fund services for our youngest residents, as well as,
56 our oldest residents.

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council respectfully requests that
58 at the Council's September 27, 2010 meeting, the Mayor propose a budget amendment, to the FY
59 2011 budget to allow for a total of not more than \$80,000.00 (eighty thousand dollars) to be
60

62 YMCA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM IN MILLER CENTER
63

64 allocated to refurbishing the 2200 square feet of the Miller Center to suit the needs of the Y's
65 proposed preschool program; and

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council respectfully requests that Parks and
67 Recreation Director Mari Steinbach and her staff engage the Y leadership with all due diligence
68 to reach a meeting of the minds on refitting the Miller Center space to meet the Y's preschool
69 program needs and to secure a long term lease with the Y in respect to the Miller Center Space.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Ward 4/7 NPA for input
71 at its September 21, 2010 meeting and that it be shared with the community at large and that
72 NPA representatives and councilors be afforded the opportunity to present the results of this
73 community outreach at the September 27, 2010 City Council meeting.

74

75
76 lb/kas/c: Resolutions 2010/YMCA PreSchool Program – move to New Miller Center on Gosse Ct.
77 9/3/10