

Dear Councillors,

I am writing in support of approving the land use application for the property located at 7400 23 Street SW located in the community of Millican Ogden. As a retired teacher, and dedicated Youth Centres of Calgary volunteer who played a critical role, along with many other volunteers, in the creation of YCC, I believe passionately in the youth centre. YCC is changing lives one day at a time, one child at a time.

Youth Centres of Calgary provides friendship, safety, tutoring, mentoring, sport, food and fun for children in Grades 6 through 10 in the community of Millican Ogden. Following the extraordinary success of the popular summer camp held at YCC, over 40 students A DAY, from Grades 6 to Grade 10 are attending the youth centre's after school program. At YCC qualified staff, practicum students and volunteers work tirelessly to deliver a structured program including tutoring in a homework room filled with homework tables, books, and schools supplies, music and the opportunity to play instruments in the music room, a wide variety of sports are offered including basketball, soccer, football, volleyball and indoor games including ping pong and foosball, and arts and crafts sessions are led by creative volunteers. The students are also provided with a snack upon arrival at the youth centre and dinner is served at 6 pm before the students depart for home- for some students the dinner served is their only meal of the day.

The support of the community has been overwhelming and humbling, first as we knocked door to door and introduced ourselves to the surrounding neighbours and explained our program, next at the Millican Ogden Community Association where the President was supportive from the onset and members gave our Executive Director a standing ovation for the creation and opening of YCC. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Councillor for Ward 9, Gian-Carlo Carro who enthusiastically supported our initiative from the start as well as City of Calgary planners who helped us navigate the permitting process as we prepared to open. Community support abounded when many neighbours attended our first Information Open House in June. At that first Open House neighbours immediately offered to help with the renovation of the youth centre and donated sports equipment! The principals at the surrounding Junior High and High Schools are fully supportive and the social workers at Calgary Housing applaud and support our initiative. The police are fully supportive because by keeping students off the streets and engaging students in a positive, supportive and safe environment we are reducing crime in the community.

It takes a village to raise a child and volunteers, neighbours, councillors, social workers, principals and the police of the Millican Ogden community are doing just this with their assistance and support of Youth Centres of Calgary. But it is the joy of the students, their huge smiles as they RUN to the centre, even lining up before the centre opens, that shows what a fabulous and successful program is being offered at Youth Centres of Calgary. It is the LARGE number of students who have been attending the centre each day since the after school program began in September that shows that what we are doing at Youth Centres of Calgary is VITALLY IMPORTANT. Youth Centres of Calgary has heart♥.

Youth Centres of Calgary is changing lives one day, one child at a time. I encourage you to be a part of the village raising the children of Millican Ogden by showing your support of Youth Centres of Calgary and approving the land use amendment application coming to Council on January 13, 2020.

Sincerely,

Debbie Proud

Retired Teacher, Dedicated Community Volunteer

CITY OF CALGARY  
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IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

JAN 13 2020

ITEM: #8.1.13 CPC2019-1032

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