

## Comprehensive Plan Testimony

Dear Planning & Sustainability Commission:

This is a request to rezone the property at 1706 SE 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue Portland, OR 97233 from R5 to Institutional IR (IC). We recently acquired this property with the plan to expand our adjacent certified childcare center.

We have owned and operated David Douglas Day Care (Zoned Institutional) at 1610 SE 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue for 34+ years. The east property line of our current center and 1706 SE 130<sup>th</sup> shares a common boundary with the David Douglas School District.

David Douglas Day Care cares for children age (6 weeks-10 years) Infants through School Age and has an excellent reputation. 80% of our families live or work within 5 miles of the center. Many of our parents who bring their children to the center are employed by David Douglas School District, Portland Adventist Medical center and nearby businesses.

There is a significant need for childcare in this diverse neighborhood. We have approximately 40 families currently on a waiting list for infant/ toddler care. Families in our SE Portland neighborhood have many choices for care for children ages 3-5 but very few certified centers that provide infant/toddler care.

This SE Portland neighborhood has a large immigrant population. A significant percentage of the children in our center come from homes where English is not the native language. Approximately 20% of our current parents receive State of Oregon Employee Related Day Care assistance, JOBS program child care assistance or other scholarship monies. It is a proven fact that a high quality early childhood experience gives all children a significant jump on their education.

Our center is open year around and provides care and activities for school age children on non-school days and summer breaks. The average income and demographics of this SE Portland area indicates strongly that certified childcare centers are a vital and necessary part of this neighborhood now and for many years to come.

In closing, we ask to rezone the property at 1706 SE 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97233 to IR(IC) so that we can provide care for more families at this expanded location.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Birkhofer  
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