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## **2017 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE**

### **Information on the Proposed Closure of Capri Early Learning and Child Care Centre**

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#### **Issue/Background:**

Budget Committee has requested that Children's Service submit a briefing note with information on the proposed closure of Capri Early Learning and Child Care Centre.

#### **Key Points:**

- Capri Early Learning and Child Care Centre, located in Ward 3, is directly operated by the City of Toronto and has an operating capacity of 36 children. Enrollment continues to be low with at least 10 vacancies consistently over the past several months. Eight of the kindergarten children currently enrolled leave the centre to attend full day kindergarten for the majority of the day. Ideally the children in full day kindergarten would receive before and after school care in their school if a program was available.
- The recommendation to close Capri is based on variety of factors including a poor physical plant, state of good repair issues and low enrollment.
- A significant portion of the centre's infrastructure (kitchen, second office, staff room, staff washroom) is located outside the secured centre in the main floor hallway of the apartment building, which also contains apartment and tenant access. This creates potential operational and health and safety issues at the centre.
- The Centre will eventually require a retrofit in order to meet current Toronto Public Health (TPH) standards related to hot water access and absence of adult-height sinks in rooms. In addition, the current ratio of sinks and toilets per child does not adhere to the Ontario Building Code best practices.
- Any renovation to the site would be costly, with initial estimates in the range of \$1 million to \$1.3 million, and it is unlikely that the spaces outside the secure area could be integrated into the Centre, leaving a fundamental issue unaddressed.
- Relocation of the centre has not been explored as there are a number of other child care options available in Ward 3 and in the neighbouring Ward 5. Since 2010, an additional 234 child care spaces have been added in Ward 3, primarily in before and after school programs for kindergarten age children.

- In 2018, there is a planned expansion of 49 additional spaces in this Ward which further increases the number of licensed child care spaces available.
- As of January 2017, there are 205 children waiting for fee subsidy in Ward 3; 105 of these are waiting for infants and school age service. These services are not available at Capri.
- Families with children enrolled at Capri would be assisted by City staff to find child care in the community or a location of their choice. There are currently toddler, preschool and kindergarten vacancies in existing programs in the Ward, in close proximity.

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**Prepared by:** Shanley McNamee, Director, Children's Service, 416-392-8284,  
smcname@toronto.ca

**Further information:** Elaine Baxter-Trahair, General Manager, Children's Services;  
416-392-8134; ebaxter@toronto.ca

**Date:** January 6, 2017