

Issues with Faith Baptist Church and Clark County Community Development:

Background: Faith Baptist Church is located in Hazel Dell Washington on approximately 7 acres. The church has been in existence since 1958 and the churches' licensed daycare has been in existence since 1989. This past year the church voted to begin a full day kindergarten class in a classroom in a newer wing of the main church building. (This wing was built in 1997). The principal of the new kindergarten contacted the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in order to receive approval for starting a private school, beginning with kindergarten and then adding a new grade each year. OSPI informed the principal that in order to be approved for a private school there needed to be at least one additional grade beside kindergarten and that kindergarten only, would be licensed by the department of Early Learning (DEL). The principal contacted DEL and was informed that since this was going to be a full day kindergarten, the kindergarten would need to be licensed by DEL and that the church could simply expand their existing Daycare license to include the new kindergarten class. If the kindergarten was only half day, no license would be needed. DEL told the principal that in order to proceed, the church would need to obtain a certificate of occupancy for childcare for the building where the kindergarten would be located.

The principal contacted Clark County's Community Development department to determine what needed to be done in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for Childcare. This is where issues began with the county.

Issues and steps that were taken:

1. David Maret, Senior Plans Examiner for Clark County Community Development informed the principal that "We have major problems here." He stated that not only did we have to go through all of the steps to get a certificate of occupancy for childcare for the newer building, but that years ago we failed to obtain the correct certificate of occupancy for the daycare, so we would also have to go through a similar process with the daycare.
2. The principal and the chairman of the church board met with David Maret and Alan Boguslawski, Planner II, to determine what further steps needed to be taken in order to get the Certificate of Occupancy for Childcare for the kindergarten and also what needed to be done for the daycare building.
3. Following the meeting, it was determined that in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for Childcare, the church would need to apply for a Type II Site plan review and make whatever improvements that were required following the review. The cost of the review and possible required improvements are as follows:

a.	TIF fees (Traffic Impact Fees)	\$17,500.00
	Plus an additional \$17,500 for each new class of 18 students	
	TIF fees for grades 1-3	\$52,500.00
b.	Frontage improvements if we increase traffic by 10%	\$17,000.00
c.	Site Plan Review Process:	
	i. Pre-app conference	\$2,881.00
	ii. Site Plan Review	\$8,598

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| d. Traffic Study | \$3,000.00 plus? |
| e. Civil engineer's cost | \$11,000.00 plus? |
| f. Building permit | \$3,000.00 plus? |
| g. Building permit required improvements (anticipated) | |
| i. Unisex restroom | \$15,000.00 |
| ii. Gate to playground, playground equipment | \$1,000.00 |
| iii. Existing daycare building improvements | |
| 1. Added doors – <u>10@500.00</u> | \$5,000.00 |
| h. TOTAL Anticipated Costs: | \$119,496.00 |
4. It was determined that these costs were too much of a financial burden on our small church and we began to look for creative ways to be able to open the doors of our kindergarten this fall:
 - a. One option: Meet for half of the day in the newer wing and then take the kindergarten class over to the daycare for the second half of the day where they would become part of the licensed 49 students. The problem with this option is that although the church would not be required to license the kindergarten if it was only half day in the building, the county would still require the church to go through the site plan process because there will be a change of use in the building.
 - b. Second Option: Limit the enrollment of the daycare and have the kindergarten students meet in the existing daycare building. The problem with this option is that the daycare will lose money because they will need to limit their enrollment and also a class will be displaced.
 - c. Most recent option: Limit the enrollment at the daycare and have the kindergarten meet in the new room. This may bump us down to a site one review which will be about \$20,000.00
 5. We feel that the county is placing a gross financial burden on us and we also feel that our rights as a religious organization are being threatened because due to gross financial burdens being imposed on us by the county we are going to be unable to begin a ministry in our existing building that we feel is crucial for our community.
 6. Suzanne Bridgeforth, child care licenser with the Department of Early Learning, has already examined the room and determined that we can have 15 students. Once we receive the certificate of occupancy for childcare, she will be able to move forward with ordering a fire inspection and will examine our policies and procedures in order to extend our existing day care license.
 7. Next year, when we add first grade, we will no longer be subject to the Department of Early Learning requirements. Instead, we will receive approval for a private school from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
 8. Our church sanctuary has an occupancy of 600. In years past, we had over 400 people attending our church every week with ministries taking place throughout the week. We have had over 300 children in our building for weekly VBS programs and just this past month we hosted a day camp with over 100 children and adults in attendance from 9am until 3pm.
9. It is puzzling to us why we can't begin a ministry in an existing building that has had fire inspections, that has a sprinkler system, and that is safe, according to our existing certificate of occupancy.
 10. We have signed up and received payments from 10 students, and we have invested a great deal of time in advertising and planning a five star program. We would still like to be able to add an additional grade each year, but right now just getting the kindergarten started is our goal.