



## Overturn the Mater Academy Approval

Ariel Gomez <ariel.gomez@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat 7/27/2024 9:17 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Reno City Council,

Please overturn the approval of a new charter school facility in the North Valleys, as it will harm the operations of the Washoe County School District, compromise student and educator safety, and is out of alignment with the Reno Master Plan.

Trivest Land Company proposes building a campus to house a 1500-seat charter school next to WCSD's Alice Smith Elementary School. Approval of this charter facility in this location is poor planning and is especially concerning given the separate and unequal dynamics between charter schools and neighborhood public schools. Locating such a large charter facility directly next to an at-risk school like Alice Smith will have the effect of siphoning away students with the most engaged parents, leaving students with greater needs and fewer resources. Our neighborhood public schools are responsible for educating the vast majority of our kids, particularly the most vulnerable. Meanwhile, development of this large charter will disrupt WCSD's 2020-2039 Facilities Plan and the collective efforts of this community to faithfully implement WC-1, including new WCSD schools in North Valleys. All the WCSD schools in the North Valleys are operating under capacity and a large new charter in the area could force WCSD to close an elementary school.

Traffic in this area already is a serious problem. This project will only make matters worse and is out of line with the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Numerous comments from those in the area have pointed out problems during drop-off and pick-up already. This includes U-turns in the middle of the street, double parking, and driving through parking lots to avoid intersections. The addition of nearly 2000 vehicle trips per day will put the safety of educators, students, and their families at greater risk. Alternatives like bicycling should usually be encouraged, but promoting bicycling to school at this location while also increasing vehicle congestion will put even more student lives at risk.

The Reno Master Plan calls on the City to work with WCSD to support their education programs and collaborate with the district in planning for the design and location of new public schools. This is in direct contrast to the process Trivest Land Company and Mater Academy of Northern Nevada undertook for their new facility. Significant input from the community input was not solicited, and comments from WCSD were largely ignored. Following your own guidance in the master plan, we ask that you consider how this project will negatively impact both public safety and WCSD. Please overturn the approval of Trivest Land Company's proposal for a new school facility and ask the project sponsor to work with WCSD and the community on any future plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ariel Gomez

Reno, NV 89506

ariel.gomez@washoeschools.net

## Comment on Mater Expansion

Ashley Robbins <abunch33@gmail.com>

Mon 7/29/2024 3:21 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Good afternoon,

I spoke at the last meeting regarding the Mater Academy, but will not be present for the one this week. To introduce myself again, I am Ashley Robbins and I have been teaching at Alice Smith since 2011. Thank you council members who took safety and traffic into consideration when making your decision. I know there was a lot of talk about the improvements that would be made to help avoid traffic issues. I am very concerned about these improvements. A few blinking lights will not change how people drive through the areas, because it doesn't change behavior now with our lights. While avoiding Beckwourth traffic and using N. Hills makes sense on paper, unfortunately it is not the only road used during the school day and drop off/pick up. Families and buses use many of the roads around the area to service our kids.

I would also like to bring up the winter weather in the North Valley's area. While I understand most of Reno experiences winter weather, the North Valleys is unique in that the roads tend to ice over easily, causing issues for the buses and other drivers. On those days, our bell schedules go out the window, so kids are dropped off and picked up whenever families can get to us safely. A 30 minute bell difference will have no use.

I would like to point out that if the Mater Expansion shifts their bell schedules from us, they still don't account for our before/after school programs and events. We have amazing turnout to events such as Moms And Muffins and Morning Mug, packing the nearby streets with families walking to our school when Mater Academy plans to start.

Finally, please remember that families use North Hills and Beckwourth to get to and from North Valleys High School and O'Brien Middle School, as our neighborhoods feed into those schools. Again, the proposed offset bell schedule with us has not considered other area schools and events.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am not Anti-Charter, I think they can serve a very specific role that public school cannot always fill. I am, however, very opposed to this location choice as it just doesn't make sense.

Ashley Robbins

## Overturn the Mater Academy Approval

Elizabeth Moore <Ejmoore830@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon 7/29/2024 12:57 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Reno City Council,

Please overturn the approval of a new charter school facility in the North Valleys, as it will harm the operations of the Washoe County School District, compromise student and educator safety, and is out of alignment with the Reno Master Plan.

Trivest Land Company proposes building a campus to house a 1500-seat charter school next to WCSD's Alice Smith Elementary School. Approval of this charter facility in this location is poor planning and is especially concerning given the separate and unequal dynamics between charter schools and neighborhood public schools. Locating such a large charter facility directly next to an at-risk school like Alice Smith will have the effect of siphoning away students with the most engaged parents, leaving students with greater needs and fewer resources. Our neighborhood public schools are responsible for educating the vast majority of our kids, particularly the most vulnerable. Meanwhile, development of this large charter will disrupt WCSD's 2020-2039 Facilities Plan and the collective efforts of this community to faithfully implement WC-1, including new WCSD schools in North Valleys. All the WCSD schools in the North Valleys are operating under capacity and a large new charter in the area could force WCSD to close an elementary school.

Traffic in this area already is a serious problem. This project will only make matters worse and is out of line with the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Numerous comments from those in the area have pointed out problems during drop-off and pick-up already. This includes U-turns in the middle of the street, double parking, and driving through parking lots to avoid intersections. The addition of nearly 2000 vehicle trips per day will put the safety of educators, students, and their families at greater risk. Alternatives like bicycling should usually be encouraged, but promoting bicycling to school at this location while also increasing vehicle congestion will put even more student lives at risk.

The Reno Master Plan calls on the City to work with WCSD to support their education programs and collaborate with the district in planning for the design and location of new public schools. This is in direct contrast to the process Trivest Land Company and Mater Academy of Northern Nevada undertook for their new facility. Significant input from the community input was not solicited, and comments from WCSD were largely ignored. Following your own guidance in the master plan, we ask that you consider how this project will negatively impact both public safety and WCSD. Please overturn the approval of Trivest Land Company's proposal for a new school facility and ask the project sponsor to work with WCSD and the community on any future plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Moore  
Reno, NV 89508  
Ejmoore830@gmail.com

## Overturn the Mater Academy Approval

Natasia Mata <matan1744@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri 7/26/2024 5:48 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Reno City Council,

Please overturn the approval of a new charter school facility in the North Valleys, as it will harm the operations of the Washoe County School District, compromise student and educator safety, and is out of alignment with the Reno Master Plan.

Trivest Land Company proposes building a campus to house a 1500-seat charter school next to WCSD's Alice Smith Elementary School. Approval of this charter facility in this location is poor planning and is especially concerning given the separate and unequal dynamics between charter schools and neighborhood public schools. Locating such a large charter facility directly next to an at-risk school like Alice Smith will have the effect of siphoning away students with the most engaged parents, leaving students with greater needs and fewer resources. Our neighborhood public schools are responsible for educating the vast majority of our kids, particularly the most vulnerable. Meanwhile, development of this large charter will disrupt WCSD's 2020-2039 Facilities Plan and the collective efforts of this community to faithfully implement WC-1, including new WCSD schools in North Valleys. All the WCSD schools in the North Valleys are operating under capacity and a large new charter in the area could force WCSD to close an elementary school.

Traffic in this area already is a serious problem. This project will only make matters worse and is out of line with the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Numerous comments from those in the area have pointed out problems during drop-off and pick-up already. This includes U-turns in the middle of the street, double parking, and driving through parking lots to avoid intersections. The addition of nearly 2000 vehicle trips per day will put the safety of educators, students, and their families at greater risk. Alternatives like bicycling should usually be encouraged, but promoting bicycling to school at this location while also increasing vehicle congestion will put even more student lives at risk.

The Reno Master Plan calls on the City to work with WCSD to support their education programs and collaborate with the district in planning for the design and location of new public schools. This is in direct contrast to the process Trivest Land Company and Mater Academy of Northern Nevada undertook for their new facility. Significant input from the community input was not solicited, and comments from WCSD were largely ignored. Following your own guidance in the master plan, we ask that you consider how this project will negatively impact both public safety and WCSD. Please overturn the approval of Trivest Land Company's proposal for a new school facility and ask the project sponsor to work with WCSD and the community on any future plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Natasia Mata  
Reno, NV 89502  
matan1744@gmail.com

## City Council Comment received from Quincy Shaw

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Mon 7/29/2024 11:00 AM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

**Contact Info:**

Name:

Quincy Shaw

Commenting on behalf of:

N/A

Ward #:

Ward 4

Email Address:

Shawq88@gmail.com

Phone Number:

7758430070

Address:

7489 Tallgrass Dr

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-07-30.

**Section:**

I Items - Public Hearing Items

**Item:**

In support of MATER academy expansion..

**Position:**

In Favor

**Are they speaking in person?**

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

**If no, enter comments below:**

There are not enough choices for schools in the North Valleys. Our kids deserve another option. I understand that traffic is a major concern but if not MATER then eventually that lot will be developed into something and cause traffic in that area anyways. Although the concern for drop off and pick up would cause a great deal of traffic but only during those times. And most of the traffic will be directly towards North hills and not Beckworth. But also MATER would help with traffic in other areas around schools in Stead because yes it will take students from other schools in the area.so I do not believe that traffic alone is an excuse to not build the school. The North Valleys had grown so fast and the infrastructure was not ready for it. But I don't see builder slowing down and only more and more houses are being built. What about the traffic that these new homes are bringing? Unfortunately I think that this matter really boils down to money. The other schools in the area do not want to lose students or funding. Which is fair that they don't want to lose funding because that will take resources away from other students but it's not secret about the quality of schools in the North Valleys especially the middle schools and high school and more should be done for these schools out here. But to take that choice away from parents is not the answer. I imagine most parents are upset about this expansion

because not every child is going to get to go. Everyone is acting like they're trying to build a strip club next door. Obviously it's not. And it's not just a school that they're trying to build. For some kids it's an opportunity. By not build the school you're denying children a chance at a better education. That should never be an argument.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

*By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.*

Yes

*By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.*

Yes

*Do you wish to sign-up for Reno Connect e-newsletters?*

*Reno Connect is the best way to stay informed about the latest news and updates from the City of Reno. We'll never share your email address with third-party persons, companies or organizations. Visit [www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect](http://www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect) to view all newsletter topic lists.*

No

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

### Contact Info:

Name:

Amy Gonzales

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

## Sparks

Email Address:

amymgonzalesbcba@gmail.com

Phone Number:

Address:

3743 Arcturas Court, Sparks, NV 89436

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-07-31.

## Section:

## I Items - Public Hearing Items

**Item:**

1.2.

**Position:**

In Favor

## Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

**If no, enter comments below:**

After last week's meeting and seeing how very off-track we all were on what you are there to do, I have this to say. Mater worked with city staff and the engineers, and with input from the WCSD, to submit a plan that covered everything that was asked of them. According to Mike Mischel, the city engineer, "From a staff level, we are comfortable that this school mitigates its traffic impact," and "we consider the scope outlined in the traffic study to be sufficient." I don't know Mr. Mischel's full background, but I can speak to the frustration I feel as an educator when a non-educator believes that what I have done is incorrect. I try very hard not to do that to other professions. With that in mind, I ask that you look closely at what your staff has put forth and the evidence they used to approve this project and listen to them because "Staff has reviewed traffic and all other findings and has recommended the conditional use permit should be approved with conditions included in the staff report." Traffic is an issue in all parts of Washoe County. I also encourage you to use your positions on this council and work within your committees and with the RTC to better support our region and its growth in the future but don't use that as your reason to say no to a school that is needed in this area.



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

*By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.*

**Yes**

*By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.*

**Yes**

*Do you wish to sign-up for Reno Connect e-newsletters?*

*Reno Connect is the best way to stay informed about the latest news and updates from the City of Reno. We'll never share your email address with third-party persons, companies or organizations. Visit [www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect](http://www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect) to view all newsletter topic lists.*

**No**

## Overturn the Mater Academy Approval

Cynthia Anderson <canderson1024@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue 7/30/2024 9:35 AM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Reno City Council,

Please overturn the approval of a new charter school facility in the North Valleys, as it will harm the operations of the Washoe County School District, compromise student and educator safety, and is out of alignment with the Reno Master Plan.

Trivest Land Company proposes building a campus to house a 1500-seat charter school next to WCSD's Alice Smith Elementary School. Approval of this charter facility in this location is poor planning and is especially concerning given the separate and unequal dynamics between charter schools and neighborhood public schools. Locating such a large charter facility directly next to an at-risk school like Alice Smith will have the effect of siphoning away students with the most engaged parents, leaving students with greater needs and fewer resources. Our neighborhood public schools are responsible for educating the vast majority of our kids, particularly the most vulnerable. Meanwhile, development of this large charter will disrupt WCSD's 2020-2039 Facilities Plan and the collective efforts of this community to faithfully implement WC-1, including new WCSD schools in North Valleys. All the WCSD schools in the North Valleys are operating under capacity and a large new charter in the area could force WCSD to close an elementary school.

Traffic in this area already is a serious problem. This project will only make matters worse and is out of line with the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Numerous comments from those in the area have pointed out problems during drop-off and pick-up already. This includes U-turns in the middle of the street, double parking, and driving through parking lots to avoid intersections. The addition of nearly 2000 vehicle trips per day will put the safety of educators, students, and their families at greater risk. Alternatives like bicycling should usually be encouraged, but promoting bicycling to school at this location while also increasing vehicle congestion will put even more student lives at risk.

The Reno Master Plan calls on the City to work with WCSD to support their education programs and collaborate with the district in planning for the design and location of new public schools. This is in direct contrast to the process Trivest Land Company and Mater Academy of Northern Nevada undertook for their new facility. Significant input from the community input was not solicited, and comments from WCSD were largely ignored. Following your own guidance in the master plan, we ask that you consider how this project will negatively impact both public safety and WCSD. Please overturn the approval of Trivest Land Company's proposal for a new school facility and ask the project sponsor to work with WCSD and the community on any future plans.

Thank you.

Cynthia Anderson

Sincerely,

Cynthia Anderson

Reno, NV 89509

canderson1024@gmail.com

## City Council Comment received from Jocelyn Perez

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Mon 7/29/2024 5:55 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

**Contact Info:**

Name:

Jocelyn Perez

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Unsure/Other

Email Address:

Jocelynpz1991@gmail.com

Phone Number:

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-07-31.

**Section:**

I Items - Public Hearing Items

**Item:**

MUP24-00010 (Mater Academy) In support of Mater Academy.

**Position:**

In Favor

**Are they speaking in person?**

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

**If no, enter comments below:**

I am in support for Mater Academy to get this opportunity to expand their school as it is a wonderful school for all students and the community! I have two children whom currently are attending and this school would benefit one of my child as she is beginning to start her schooling within Mater and my son will be in 8th grade this grade. The expansion of this school will benefit many students, please help it happen and approve this thank you!

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

*By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.*

Yes

*By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.*

*Do you wish to sign-up for Reno Connect e-newsletters?*

No

## City Council Comment received from Maria Casas

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Tue 7/30/2024 7:06 AM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

**Contact Info:**Name:

Maria Casas

Commenting on behalf of:

Mater Academy of Northern Nevada

Ward #:

Unsure/Other

Email Address:

mfcasas05@gmail.com

Phone Number:

7753380203

Address:

1800 Wilder Street

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-07-31.

**Section:**

I Items - Public Hearing Items

**Item:**

MUP24-00010.

**Position:**

In Favor

**Are they speaking in person?**

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

**If no, enter comments below:**

In support of Mater Academy

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

*By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.*

Yes

*By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.*

Yes

*Do you wish to sign-up for Reno Connect e-newsletters?*

*Reno Connect is the best way to stay informed about the latest news and updates from the City of Reno. We'll never share your email address with third-party persons,*

7/30/24, 8:58 AM

Mail - Public Comment - CC - Outlook

companies or organizations. Visit [www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect](http://www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect) to view all newsletter topic lists.

No

## City Council Comment received from Markie Wilder Wilder

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Tue 7/30/2024 1:04 AM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

**Contact Info:**

Name:

Markie Wilder Wilder

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Sparks

Email Address:

wildermarkie@gmail.com

Phone Number:

7753514193

Address:

550 Marina Gateway Dr. Sparks, NV 89434

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-07-31.

**Section:**

I Items - Public Hearing Items

**Item:**

I.2 Case No. MUP2400010 (Mater Academy).

**Position:**

In Favor

**Are they speaking in person?**

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

**If no, enter comments below:**

Recently, I had to explain to my daughter the need for our advocacy in the approval of Mater Academy's expansion in North Valley. Like any sassy and smart 2nd grader, she was argumentative with me, explaining Ms. Gia already got it approved (State Charter School Authority Approval). Breaking down politics to a 6-year-old is not easy. I explained to her that Washoe County School District feels threatened by the location and does not want her school to expand and take away resources. But this expansion is not about taking away; it's about providing more opportunities and choices for our community. Mater Academy will enhance Reno's Master Plan by supporting a resilient local economy, improving quality of life, and promoting educational excellence. It will provide essential childcare services, accommodate the needs of skilled workers, and create a robust educational environment that benefits all students. Opponents of the new charter school claim it will harm the Washoe County School District (WCSD), compromise safety, and misalign with the Reno Master Plan. However, the expansion of Mater Academy will instead complement the area's educational landscape and address several critical needs. Resilient Local and Regional Economy (1.5): The expansion of the Boys and Girls Club alongside the charter school will provide essential childcare services, accommodating the needs of

skilled workers in the area. This supports the development of a diverse, educated, healthy, and adaptable workforce (1.5C, 1.5D). Quality of Life (1.5A): Affordable housing in the North Valley area is a critical concern. The new Mater Academy can help attract new workers by providing high-quality education options, making the area more appealing for families and enhancing the local workforce. Alignment of Efforts (1.5C): Mater Academy's programs train students for the region's existing target industries, such as coding, public speaking, policy advocacy, and working with BIPOC small businesses and non-profits. This educational alignment supports the broader goals of the Washoe County School District, UNR, TMCC, and other institutions (1.5D). Collaborative Planning (2.4K): The Reno Master Plan calls for collaboration with the Washoe County School District in planning new public schools and the repurposing of any redundant schools. By working together, we can ensure the new facility complements the city's growth and priorities. Vibrant and Livable Community (3.1): The expansion of Mater Academy and the Boys and Girls Club will enhance neighborhood gathering places, providing sports programs, food pantries, and other essential services. This supports a mix of uses in community centers that reflect the needs of residents (4.4D). Traffic and Safety: Traffic concerns are valid, but comparable scenarios exist with other charter schools near public schools in the area. With proper planning and collaboration, we can address these issues to ensure safe routes for all students (6.3). Health and Wellness (6.3, 6.4D, 6.5): Mater Academy and the Boys and Girls Club emphasize active lifestyles and healthy living, providing physical education, nature walks, and access to fresh food. These initiatives align with the Master Plan's goal of supporting health and wellness among residents of all ages (6.7). Educational Excellence (6.7): Supporting a strong education system with diverse opportunities is crucial. The joint use of the new facility by Mater Academy and the Boys and Girls Club will create a robust educational environment, benefiting both engaged parents and students with greater needs. Please approve the expansion of Mater Academy in North Valley. This expansion will encourage adequate staffing, nurture diversity, and foster a positive and encouraging environment, resulting in more motivated educators. As Reno continues to grow, so should the opportunities for educational choice. Mater Academy's Charter School enhances Reno's Master Plan.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

*By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.*

Yes

*By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.*

Yes

*Do you wish to sign-up for Reno Connect e-newsletters?*

*Reno Connect is the best way to stay informed about the latest news and updates from the City of Reno. We'll never share your email address with third-party persons, companies or organizations. Visit [www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect](http://www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect) to view all newsletter topic lists.*

No





blaming the integration of special education students for ALL behavioral problems in their classrooms, some going so far as to imply that bringing back "MR classrooms" (if you are under 50, you might not be familiar with that term, ask your parents and be prepared to have your day ruined, I know my day was ruined when I learned about them) will solve all of our problems. The environment at the school was so toxic that my son didn't just fake being sick, he literally made himself sick. At 4 years old, in pre-K, this child was so traumatized by the environment created by our school district that he was forcing himself to be sick so he didn't have to go. Finding a charter school to put him in has completely changed his life. I'll be honest, Mater Academy was our second choice (my apologies to Gia Maraccini, I know that she does absolutely amazing work, she truly has committed her life to bettering the education of children in our community), but we still would have been absolutely thrilled for our son to go there had we not gotten into our first choice (Honors Academy of Literature). These schools are a lifeline to the families that slip through the many cracks in the WCSD system. Children aren't one size fits all, neither should their education be. Yes, we need good district schools, we also need good magnet programs, and good charter schools as well. If WCSD wants to stop students from going to Mater, or any other charter school, all they have to do is to provide meaningful support to their teachers and make sure that children stop falling through the cracks in their system (most of which are things that don't take money to fix, it takes absolutely no money to get staff to stop belittling students, it costs no money to get staff to stop turning a blind eye to bullying, it takes absolutely no money to stop throwing special needs students under the bus as the scapegoat for the school's problems). Unfortunately, it seems that WCSD has opted to instead try to prevent students from leaving by making it impossible for them to do so. The city needs to support this high quality public school option for the students who desperately need it.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

*By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.*

Yes

*By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.*

Yes

*Do you wish to sign-up for Reno Connect e-newsletters?*

*Reno Connect is the best way to stay informed about the latest news and updates from the City of Reno. We'll never share your email address with third-party persons, companies or organizations. Visit [www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect](http://www.Reno.Gov/RenoConnect) to view all newsletter topic lists.*

No

# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Shannon Morlin  
ADDRESS: 333 Stanford Way #5 Sparks NV  
CONTACT PHONE: 75 378-8779 89431  
E-MAIL: sa\_happi2love@yahoo.com

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM Appeal Mader Academy #12

☒ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Gia Maraccini  
ADDRESS: 5188 Olinda Dr.  
CONTACT PHONE: 775-250-2920  
E-MAIL: Gia.Maraccini

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

Mater Academy

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM IX I-2

☒ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Amy Silver  
ADDRESS: 4065 S. Virginia St Reno, NV  
CONTACT PHONE: 775-636-9550  
E-MAIL: asilver@thechambernr.org

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM \_\_\_\_\_

☐ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☒ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION





# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Micayla Cruz.  
ADDRESS: 7710 Yorkshire Dr.  
CONTACT PHONE: 775 232 3245.  
E-MAIL: micayla.cruz@gmail.com

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☐ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM I2

☒ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Kaly Krentz  
ADDRESS: 8808 Silverhist Dr. Reno NV 89512  
CONTACT PHONE: (775) 720-6907  
E-MAIL: Kaly.krentz.nv@washburn.edu

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

myself

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☒ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM Appeal Mayor I.2.

☒ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Luke Welmerink  
ADDRESS: 9432 Double R Blvd. Reno NV 89521  
CONTACT PHONE: (775) 954-6006  
E-MAIL: LUKE@WELMERINKLAW.COM

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

Board of Directors - Mater Academy of N. Nev.

☐ WARD 1 ☐ WARD 2 ☐ WARD 3 ☐ WARD 4 ☐ WARD 5

☒ OTHER County

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM ~~II~~ I.2

☒ IN FAVOR ☐ IN OPPOSITION ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION





# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Stephanie Gump  
ADDRESS: 7381 overture dr.  
CONTACT PHONE: 775-379-5188  
E-MAIL: Stephie.gump@gmail.com

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☒ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM Mater Academy I.2

☐ IN FAVOR    ☒ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: I brought notes to read.

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Calen Evans

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5

☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM I 2

☐ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Allyson Updike  
ADDRESS: 3553 E. Hidden Valley Dr. Reno, NV 89502  
CONTACT PHONE: 775-636-4404  
E-MAIL: allyson.updike@washoeschools.net

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM I. 2

☒ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION





# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Gilbert Len3  
ADDRESS: 9310 Bull Rd. Reno NV 89506  
CONTACT PHONE: 775530 9251  
E-MAIL: gglen3@gmail.com

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☒ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM MATER

☐ IN FAVOR    ☒ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: I am a resident of Golden Valley  
and a teacher at NVHS. This will be  
catastrophic to our valley and traffic. The  
district has invested hundreds of millions. We  
Northern Valleys school. We don't need or want  
Mater.

Its like building two police stations or  
fire stations right next to each other!

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Nicolette Andirini  
ADDRESS: 1985 Lonesome Spur Dr. Reno 89521  
CONTACT PHONE: 775-232-9317  
E-MAIL: NAndirini@washoeschools.net

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? ~~YES~~ ☒ NO

AGENDA ITEM Appeal Mater Academy

☒ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: The infrastructure of the North  
Valleys ~~has~~ <sup>have</sup> been stretched to its limits.  
Adding another school in this area will only  
worsen traffic congestion. This creates delays  
and frustration. More importantly, it will increase  
the risk of pedestrian safety, especially for  
children. Reno needs thoughtful planning that  
prioritizes the safety of its residents. This  
plan DOES NOT provide public benefit, does not  
mitigate traffic impact, nor provide a safe  
Environment.

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION





# RENO CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: William Mantle  
ADDRESS: 2040 Angel Ridge Dr. Reno, NV 89521  
CONTACT PHONE: 775-842-9344  
E-MAIL: mantlewardle@gmail.com

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☒ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☐ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☐ NO ☒

AGENDA ITEM I.2

☐ IN FAVOR    ☒ IN OPPOSITION    ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: The outstanding traffic concerns have not been addressed. Major roads are overly restricted by an extensive school zone, a traffic study that purports 1,500 students only need ~450 cars to travel at peak, and a community that already has these resources in plenty. The N. Valley can't handle this use and an alternate site should be found.

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



1

Hello my name is Stephanie Gump  
I'm a parent, an educator, and a resident of the  
neighborhood next to this project. I am going to  
voice my concerns as a resident of the area.  
Traffic is my biggest concern.

Mater academy states that they researched the traffic  
patterns. I have lived in the North Valleys for about 20  
years and I have taken every possible route to navigate  
around the North valleys.

you got  
this

We are congested from 6:00 am - 7:00 pm. When anything  
happens anywhere in the Valleys, golden valley gets that  
traffic. On a regular normal, no accidents, no fires, no snow,  
just normal traffic day. During the whole day, golden valley  
is packed. The additional school in this location will not be  
good for golden valley. The amount of traffic that accumulates  
in golden valley has a domino effect on all of the rest of the  
North valleys.

I'm not against the school coming to the north valleys, but the  
location needs to be better suited for the traffic we have. If  
a location can not be found then it can't be done. I feel the  
same about businesses and homes, ~~being houses or apartments~~.  
I think this location is too small to have a school and even if  
you are able to accomitate all the vehicles. Those vehicles have to  
get there somehow and the neighborhood and streets around it will  
be crowded with so many more cars.

we love  
you

Putting a school zone on N. Hill will now slow down already  
congested streets and I will guarantee people will use Rutherford  
as a shortcut. which is in the Cabernet highlands neighborhood  
across from Alice Smith Elementary school.

2

My neighborhood has narrow streets with parked cars along it. So it's already packed with cars cutting through. This school will add more traffic and danger because there are cars driving down the center of the street to avoid the N. Hill traffic.

you are  
important

From 7:30<sup>AM</sup> to 8:15<sup>AM</sup> Buck drive from Lemmon valley drive to N. Hill is at a standstill. This leads to vehicles blocking the intersection of Lemmon valley drive and sky vista/Buck.

Golden valley drive off ramp South bound turning left has a stop sign. The cars coming from Golden valley go straight with no stop and turn left on to south bound with no stop. There is a second stop sign that slows the off ramp traffic that is for the cars coming from old 395/North virginia. Right now we have 20+ cars that back up on the south bound off ramp to turn left.

you  
are smart

Upon going thru this intersection, the short left turning lane at the stoplight of N. Hill will get backed up coming from both directions on golden valley.

These intersections are a problem in the morning, throughout the day, and into the evening. I don't think that a school going in at this location will be good for the golden valley area. Thank you



Good evening Mayor Schieve and Members of the Reno City Council.

My name is Ann Silver and I serve as CEO of the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

You are aware that on Monday, July 22, the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce requested that a letter in support of Mater Academy's proposed site be rescinded, and it was.

That action was taken at the request of the Washoe County School District and I take full responsibility for not fully understanding the complex and nuanced situation that now requires deliberate and thoughtful consideration of both the support and opposition for Mater Academy in the North Valleys.

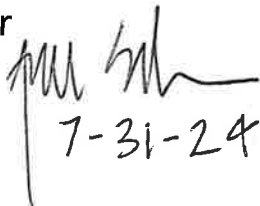
With the approval of the Chamber's Executive Committee, I'm here to provide a quote contained in the Chamber's 2024 Public Policy Platform approved by our full Board and mailed to each of you in January of this year:

"The Chamber supports increased K through 12 school options including, but not limited to, Public Charter Schools, school vouchers and equal access to education".

The Chamber also respectfully requests that in the spirit of full transparency, Councilmember Reece abstain from voting on this matter if, as a partner of the firm, Reece Ring Velto, the firm performs any work on behalf of any association affiliated with the Washoe County School District and/or its position on the issue before you.

Thank you for your time.

Ann Silver



7-31-24

## Webinar Registration City of Reno - Reno City Council Meeting - 7/31/24

City Clerk <no-reply@zoom.us>

Wed 7/31/2024 6:05 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Hi City Clerk,

Lisa Drauch (drauc1lm@gmail.com) has registered for "City of Reno - Reno City Council Meeting - 7/31/24" on: Jul 31, 2024 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

First Name: Lisa

Last Name: Drauch

Email: drauc1lm@gmail.com

Address: 7931 Mariner Cove Dr

City: Reno

Zip/Postal Code: 89506

State/Province: NV

Phone: 7342500881

Job Title: WCSD Teacher

Questions & Comments: Hello, My name is Lisa Drauch. I am a parent of a child at Alice Smith Elementary, a teacher at Alice Smith, and a resident of the N. Valleys community. Our normal commute on a good weather day averages 10 minutes in the morning. However, any kind of weat

If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please provide your public comment in the Question & Comments box below.: My public comment will not fit in the box.

Do you wish to provide public comment for this City Council Meeting?: Yes

Are you attending the meeting as a: Member of the public

Which Ward you live in?: Ward 4

Webinar Detail Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/89688388434>

Thank you!

**Webinar Registration City of Reno - Reno City Council Meeting - 7/31/24**

City Clerk &lt;no-reply@zoom.us&gt;

Wed 7/31/2024 6:04 PM

To:Public Comment - CC &lt;PublicComment@reno.gov&gt;

Hi City Clerk,

Kristie Falls (kfalls@washoeschools.net) has registered for "City of Reno - Reno City Council Meeting - 7/31/24" on: Jul 31, 2024 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

First Name: Kristie

Last Name: Falls

Email: kfalls@washoeschools.net

Address: 835 Christina Circle

City: Sparks

Zip/Postal Code: 89436

State/Province: NV

Phone: 775-741-9519

Organization: WCSD

Job Title: teacher

If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please provide your public comment in the Question & Comments box below.: Kristie Falls

Do you wish to provide public comment for this City Council Meeting?: Yes

Are you attending the meeting as a: Member of the public

Which Ward you live in?: Other

Webinar Detail Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/89688388434>


Thank you!






# 2024 - 2025

## PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

A tall flagpole with an American flag at the top, positioned to the left of the first paragraph of text.

The Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce maintains strong working relationships with our elected officials at the municipal, county, state and federal levels. We expect these leaders to advance public policies that support free enterprise, reduced regulatory burdens on businesses, and magnify a robust business environment.

A detailed illustration of the Nevada State Capitol dome, showing its ornate architecture and arched windows, located at the bottom left of the page.

This Public Policy Platform informs our members, elected officials and their constituents on the positions of the Reno + Sparks Chamber regarding numerous issues and challenges we are prepared to address for the betterment of our community and state. Our Chamber will continue to advocate for bipartisan solutions and commits to advocacy on behalf of all members.

# HEALTHCARE

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Federal health insurance regulations that enable this Chamber of Commerce to offer its members participation in the Reno + Sparks Chamber Association Health Care Plan, open to any Chamber member statewide. It has the most affordable and comprehensive options for small businesses (2-50 employees) to provide medical, dental, vision, and life insurance to their employees and to level the playing field when recruiting alongside larger companies.

More funding for state programs that address mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, veterans' services, child care, elder care, and the learning-challenged.

The advancement of social and emotional intelligence achieved in pre-schools and encourages the use of vouchers and extended income eligibility for childcare subsidies to 85%.

Innovative incentives and rewards that improve the recruitment of more medical professionals to our community.

The expansion of employee wellness programs that reduce the harmful effects of various substances, including cigarette smoking in the workplace.

Federal and state policies that will lower the prices of prescription drugs in the state.

Residential delivery of prescription drugs.

The ability of healthcare consumers to purchase insurance in a nationwide marketplace and to ensure fair share federal formulas for the Nevada Medicaid Program.

The availability of health savings accounts for employees.

The ability for healthcare providers to submit prescriptions electronically.

Free access to feminine hygiene products, services and contraception.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

The implementation of the "Public Option" as stated in Senate Bill 420 from the 2021 legislative session.

Any effort to destabilize Association Health Plans and the products they provide Chamber members.

The designation of employer contributions to their employees' health care premiums as taxable income.

# TAXATION & EFFICIENT, ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

## *The Chamber Supports:*

A strong, sustainable economy supported by a stable, broad-based and equitable tax system.

Taxes raised at the local level as determined by elected branches of government.

Total transparency by local governments on the financial impact of collective bargaining agreements.

Periodic and public review of public employee retirement and benefit programs to ensure approximate parity with private employers.

Candidates with sufficient business experience to seek office and to represent the needs of small, medium and large companies.

The continuation of the Commerce Tax at its present level.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

Unfunded mandates passed down from congressional or legislative bodies to local governments.

Personal or corporate income tax, and a margin or gross receipts tax.

# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Educational programs that incorporate greater emphasis on technical and vocational training that can lead to higher-level employment and lifetime career opportunities. Career aspirations should be explored and identified as early as middle school in collaboration with businesses, Chambers of Commerce, the trades, apprenticeship programs, and internships.

More effective collaboration between statewide Chambers of Commerce and employers to identify open positions, qualifications, new industries, and much-needed trade occupations in our community.

More effective partnership between the local school district and our Chamber of Commerce to inspire workforce planning by implementing workforce “career days” beginning in middle school.

Increased K-12 school options including, but not limited to, Public Charter Schools, school vouchers and equal access to education.

“Nevada’s Read-By-Grade-3 Program” to increase childhood reading capabilities and students who are prepared to graduate with the necessary skills for adulthood and the workplace.

The ability of school principals in concert with teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, and the child’s family to require a student to repeat a grade in order to ensure effective preparedness for moving to the next academic level.

Full accountability and transparency for the use of all U.S. Department of Labor funding directed to workforce development and training programs with measurable deliverables that demonstrate the effectiveness of training and placement in career-oriented positions.

Consolidation of multiple state agencies all of which have a portion of their funding and staff dedicated to workforce development, leading to duplication of efforts and confusion on the part of job seekers.

Legislative mandates that support increased per pupil funding by implementing efficiencies and outcomes without increasing or creating new taxes.

Employer-led “earn and learn” programs that include “on-the-job training” and official apprenticeship programs identified and accredited by the Nevada Labor Commissioner.

Attention and efforts made to develop affordable and multi-family housing that will enable families or guardians to afford child or elder care services so they may enter or reenter the workforce.

Investments in educational/certificate training for home care workers to earn living wages while providing elder or child care.

# ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

## *The Chamber Supports:*

The growth of clean energy technologies and expansion of Nevada’s clean energy economy.

Recent legislative efforts to increase electric transmission projects and the continued efforts to become energy-independent by prioritizing renewable energy resources.

Development of utility scale solar, geothermal, wind, and storage technologies on private and public lands and exporting the energy outside of the state for the benefit of the ratepayer.

Encouraging members to support technological innovations and efforts to electrify the transportation sector across the state.

The development of EV charging stations and infrastructure for all technologies.

Solutions that assist with the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Mining the abundant “critical minerals” needed to utilize new technologies, including lithium and other elements widely available in the state.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## *The Chamber Supports:*

A criminal justice system that is integral to public safety for businesses and residents.

Strong regulations, enforcement and consistent funding for law enforcement.

"Specialty Courts" that provide offenders of non-violent, low-level crimes the opportunity to participate in rehabilitation programs and become productive members of society.

Prison and parole reform that reflects a greater emphasis on realistic sentencing, rehabilitation that offers job skills training, job placement, and lowers cost alternatives to traditional incarceration.

Public service work for certain offenders as part of their sentencing with the emphasis on community service and reduction of costs to taxpayers.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

Efforts to reform the bail system that will allow the early release of high level, violent criminals into our community. Public safety and victims' rights must be serious considerations should efforts be made to change the system.

# IMMIGRATION

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Flexible legal immigration laws that enable employers to recruit and employ workers based on professional service requirements and market demand.

The establishment of a comprehensive guest worker program that requires full identification and adherence to federal laws by workers who come from outside the United States.

Penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal workers if they have the resources available to easily and accurately determine the legal status of potential employees.

# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Celebration and respect for the diversity of its membership. Diversity drives innovation and entrepreneurship and represents a key component of our longevity and success. Chamber members build workplace cultures of diversity and inclusion where differences are recognized and valued.

The Chamber will strive to grow our membership, programs, and resources in ways that reflect the diversity of the community we serve and its robust economic growth.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

Any member or employee of a member who utilizes "free speech" as an excuse to cause personal or physical harm, create mayhem, spread falsehoods, or commit acts of violence in our community.

# ELECTIONS

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Existing state law that allows for early voting, mail in voting, and in-person Election Day voting by registered voters.

Reasonable policies and regulations put forth by the Nevada Secretary of State to upgrade the existing technology used to manage registered voter rolls, efficiency in ballot tabulation and transparency.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

Any effort to publish false information about a candidate, initiative or election effort.

# CIVILITY AND CIVIL DISCOURSE

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Robust and candid dialogue driven by a code of conduct that represents the best of a free and fair democracy. Our voice and visibility should create a symbiotic community of common causes rather than one of divisive rhetoric and civic discord.

# ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES (CONT.)

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in business operations, particularly those that have a disparate impact on businesses, consumers or disadvantaged communities.

Continuation of its "Green Business Certificate" and "Green Dining District" training programs to prepare businesses for environmental challenges and consumer priorities.

Transparent energy policies that include well-designed market mechanisms and a fair regulatory environment.

Consolidated regional planning for water, air, and flood control with long-range planning taking precedence over short-term solutions.

The development of wildlife crossings for the safe migration of wild animals along busy roads and highways.

Federal, state and local government actions and policies that support growth of natural wildlife species in the region.

Promotion, conservation and management policies that support urban and rural outdoor recreation activities.

# GROWTH & EXPANSION

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Leadership from Washoe County, City of Reno, and the City of Sparks working closely with our federal delegation to establish a balanced approach to the acquisition and use of federal lands.

Continued work by EDAWN and GOED to attract companies and industries that recognize the high cost of living for their employees and ameliorate the unintended consequences of rapid growth by building workforce housing and /or childcare facilities, adequate infrastructure and broadband expansion that accommodate large numbers of new residents.

Fair and equitable allocations of federal and state resources for all public works projects, with particular emphasis on equitable and alternative modes of transportation, particularly in underserved communities.

Cooperative efforts to diversify our community's economy and enhanced employment opportunities by providing greater financial support to local/small businesses rather than out-of-state corporations that request and receive state tax abatements and incentives.

Plans to develop affordable workforce housing in order to attract employees for all industry sectors vital to our economic well-being, including but not limited to: hospitality and tourism, transportation, retail, education, medical and mental health services, education, the trades, manufacturing, distribution, and technology.

Initiatives that create greater efficiency for business development, such as online processing for business licenses and permits.

A reduction in the cost of acquiring construction permits from Washoe County, Cities of Reno and Sparks, and Northern Nevada Public Health.

Business Improvement Districts that maintain legal restrictions against pan-handling, vagrancy, and other illegal activities and promote a healthy and vibrant community.

All business that are legally zoned and operated within the boundaries of code enforcement are permitted to do so without undue interference or random petitions to eliminate them.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

Government action that erodes free enterprise such as wage, price, and rent controls.

Efforts to decrease financial support and resources for public safety and law enforcement entities at the state and local levels.

Economic growth that fails to anticipate plans for necessary infrastructure development (affordable housing, road, schools, childcare facilities, access to healthcare and public transportation) and undermines our residents' ability to enjoy a quality of life threatened by unrelenting growth.



# ECONOMIC VITALITY & TOURISM

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Continued collaboration with the Reno/Tahoe Airport Authority, the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada and the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority to enhance a robust travel, tourism, and business environment.

Greater recognition for the vital role played by our hotels, casinos, and entertainment venues as critical revenue resources for Nevada.

The establishment of a four-year post-secondary hospitality program in northern Nevada that produces graduates capable of career positions in hotel management, food and beverage operations, entertainment, catering, finance, room management and an assortment of middle to senior-level positions equipped to replace an aging workforce in our vital tourism and hospitality sector.

Economic initiatives that ensure adequate infrastructure improvements completed in advance by developers that provide residents the ability to drive, walk, bike, shop, eat, and recreate while enjoying a unique lifestyle in their respective communities.

Cooperative efforts to diversify our region's economy and enhance quality career opportunities without focusing efforts on one significant business sector to the detriment of others.

Efforts to develop and maintain an adequate supply of attainable/affordable, workforce housing so working Nevadans choose to remain here as do their families.

State and regional efficiencies and consolidation of services that result in improved value to residents.

Initiatives that support efficient economic development, such as online processing for obtaining business licenses and permits.

Policies and initiatives that protect Nevada's public lands as a means to promote outdoor recreational opportunities for residents, visitors, and future generations.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

Elected officials serving as voting members on the Board of the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority and utilizing room tax revenue to fund municipal and county projects.

Any governmental action that erodes free enterprise such as wage, price, rent controls and inclusionary zoning.

Efforts to erode financial support and resources for public safety entities at the state and local level.

# LABOR & MANAGEMENT

## *The Chamber Supports:*

Organic wage growth for entry-level employees in on-site job training or temporary summer employment. The Chamber favors organic wage growth driven by economic conditions and market-based competition.

The rights of management to recruit, hire, and terminate individuals "at will" provided such action is not discriminatory or in violation of any state or federal law.

Continuation of Nevada's "Right-to-Work" law.

The elimination of Nevada's daily overtime law.

## *The Chamber Opposes:*

Any mandated scheduling laws that limit a business owner's ability to introduce flexible scheduling in response to business conditions.

Efforts to weaken the rights of employees to a secret ballot unionization process in an environment free from intimidation and coercion.

Harassment and bullvina tactics of any kind, in any work, educational or professional environment.