

[illegible]

## 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,

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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,

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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?*

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No