

[illegible]

City Council Comment received from Amy Gonzales

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Mon 7/29/2024 9:15 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Amy Gonzales

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Sparks

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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:

I.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

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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

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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:

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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

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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:

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Markie Wilder Wilder

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Sparks

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7753514193

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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.

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No

City Council Comment received from Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Tue 7/30/2024 12:12 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins

Commenting on behalf of:

I am speaking entirely on my own behalf.

Ward #:

Ward 5

Email Address:

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:

I.2.

Position:

In Favor

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I must say, reading the written comments submitted so far that have been posted online has been really telling. The vast majority of the comments in opposition to this have been an exact copy and paste of the same email, submitted via an email service from a PAID advocacy group, with a mere handful that had at least edited the email after doing a copy and paste, and even fewer writing their own original thoughts in opposition. For the comments in favor, I didn't see a single one that appeared to be a copy and paste job, every single one of the people related the personal impact that Mater Academy (or charter schools in general) have had on their family. The people supporting the school are actually putting in effort. I'll add my voice to the people whose families have been positively impacted by charter schools in our community. When my son was in a special education pre-K program at a WCSD school, he was absolutely miserable. Staff would regularly belittle him (and his classmates), staff would routinely look the other way when older students bullied and harassed him and his classmates, his teacher did the best she could (she actually was an amazing teacher) given how little support she got from the rest of the school, but when the rest of the school is working against her, it's no wonder that she wasn't able to accomplish much. I even heard gen ed teachers

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.

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No