

**From:** [Roy Podorson](#)  
**To:** [infocso](#)  
**Cc:** [Roy Podorson](#)  
**Subject:** 2014-15 Major Modification Application Public Comment-Roy Podorson  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 12:10:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Picture 13.png](#)

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## **Additional comments about the Friere Charter School and Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood meeting Monday night March 10, 2014 at the Carvel building in Wilmington -Roy Podorson:**

### **Three major points:**

**1. Midtown Brandywine was taken by surprise**, shocked, this past November 2014 with this news item: "*A Philadelphia-based charter school will operate its Wilmington campus out of a six-story building in the city's downtown that is widely known as the former home of the local Blue Cross Blue Shield affiliate.*"

The neighborhood new nothing about this. Brandywine Midtown was insulted, shocked and treated with disrespect that a deal like this was made sometime last April and forced upon us with no say in the matter.

We're talking about over 500 people coming into our neighborhood daily that has a population of about 250.

Over 60 people from the neighborhood showed up at the first meeting. Everyone was concerned. A meeting or two later

Kelly from Freire stated "because of the school the value of our properties would rise" -this is not true it will reduce the value of our property.

The homes on the corner of West 14th & Orange Street at the main entrance of the Freire will be chocked with hundreds of students.

If a school zone happens with signs etc. there will be further parking problems and refuse pick up twice weekly will further compound students safety.

**2. Traffic & drop offs-** If 250 students attend, drop offs of about 10% might occur at the school-that would be 25 vehicles dropping off students and on cold rainy days it could climb to 25% or more parents dropping off their children with approximately 62 vehicles which could quickly turn Orange Street to as far South as 12th street into a one street parking lot especially during rush hour.

Where Orange street meets 14th street there is a sharp left turn as 14th Street becomes a dead end.

**3. The Academy Of Dance** was located on West 14th street near the Blue Cross building for many years-with only 30 some odd students there were impending traffic nightmares with parking spots being taken and cars doubled parked waiting for their children to finish lessons.  
**Freire will likely have over 10 times the amount of students.**

Summary: we are not against schools by any means but against where a school is being placed that would totally change our neighborhood will up to 500+ students waking through our streets in a neighborhood that has narrow streets and about 250 residents. It will create traffic hazards for student population a residents alike.

The Dramatization I presented at the meeting Monday night. 75 students crowding West 14th street walking towards the Freire school.

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A dramatization of about 75 students on West 14th St. With over 500 students projected to arrive at the Freire school Orange s crowding can spill into the streets which can bring students to through Winchester Place to Tatnall to 14th Street since Orange might be so crowded with as many as 400 students.

West to the Drive can be entirely backed since the traffic light on Washington would only let a few cars through then turned red as students cross 14th & West from Washington. Drivers might simply drive straight up West st., the wrong way to 13th St. This doesn't include drop offs that will come about on rainy cold days.



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**From:** [Amie Baker](#)  
**To:** [infocso](#)  
**Subject:** 2014-15 Major Modification Application Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 2:03:00 PM

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I am a resident of Midtown Brandywine and I oppose the Freire School request for a major modification on their charter.

Amie Baker  
304 W. 14th Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Trish Kocher](#)  
**To:** [infocso](#)  
**Subject:** Freire Charter School - 2014-15 Major Modification Application Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 3:20:01 PM

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**Full Name:** Trish Kocher

**Email Address:** tbk229@comcast.net

**Charter School:** Freire Charter School

**Comment:** Trish Kocher  
229 W. 14th Street

Testimony opposing major modifications to the Freire School charter.

My name is Trish Kocher. I have lived at 229 W. 14th Street in Midtown Brandywine for 20 years. My house is in the same block as the proposed location for Freire School. I object to this location due to the traffic constraints created by the landlocked site and the 610 students and faculty/staff that will arrive and depart each day during two condensed periods of time, which will have a negative impact on the neighborhood and the safety of students.

The property has only one street front and all passenger cars, transit vans, food and delivery trucks will be forced by design to come into the neighborhood on one-way Orange Street and turn left as it dead-ends in front of the school onto one-way 14th Street. The vehicles will, by virtue of their use, be stopping to drop off people or goods. There is no plan to route them through the rear of the proposed school property and there are no side streets – just one city street in front of the school.

Freire leaders have suggested that they will direct most students to ride DART buses then walk into school from Rodney Square or Washington Street. They have also suggested that they will direct parents that do drive to drop their children off a block away on Market Street and have them walk in through Fletcher Brown Park. I appreciate the concept, but there is nothing to compel parents or students to follow these recommended routes.

Like me, they will take the shortest line from A to B. Like me, parents are entitled to drive down Orange Street to the front of the school, where they will join the inevitable line of cars that will form on 14th Street. Like me, the students will cut through the neighborhood to find the quickest route to school. The vehicle and foot traffic will have a profound and negative effect on our well-established, quiet neighborhood. And this does not include the transit vans we recently learned will be required to bring any Red Clay students requiring transportation to the site.

We have been polite at neighborhood meetings, but this should not be mistaken as support for this location. 201 W. 14th Street is a bad location. Midtown Brandywine is a testimony to the fact that people still enjoy city living and that downtown neighborhoods can flourish. But Midtown is a rare thing in this city and I am afraid that the fragile balance of a residential neighborhood in the middle of the city is about to tip.

Please stop this good school from being shoe-horned into a bad location.

**From:** [Karen Austria](#)  
**To:** [infocso](#)  
**Subject:** Freire Charter School - 2014-15 Major Modification Application Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 12:04:21 PM

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**Full Name:** Karen Austria

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**Charter School:** Freire Charter School

**Comment:** I am a resident of Midtown Brandywine and I oppose the location of Freire School in my neighborhood.

The issues I have, mirror those of other neighbors opposed to Friere entering Midtown. Frankly, these issues seem quite obvious; traffic, parking, congestion, student transportation/ safety, our quality of life as a small, thriving neighborhood within the city. There is nothing beneficial to us as a neighborhood to having a school enter. I truly cannot see the benefit to Friere either.