

From: [Braxton, Johnnie](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: 2014-15 Major Modification Application Public Comment
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 9:55:28 AM

Charter School Advisory Committee

I am writing in reference to the Freire Charter School Major Modification application.

I have serious concerns that this modification will be approved over the clearly stated, reasonable objections of neighbors of the proposed location. I question how Freire has been allowed to begin work in the building when this latest and second modification has not been approved. How is the renovation being allowed to proceed? It's as if someone has given school officials the green light although residents are under the impression that our concerns are being taken seriously and no official decision has been made.

I fear this charter school is being rubber stamped over neighborhood opposition and even though stated enrollment goals are not being reached. Freire leaders are asking that initial enrollment numbers be lowered and on top of that it seems the charter will be granted even if an even lower percentage, of that decreased number is reached. In what world does this make sense?

What purpose does a public comment period serve, if the entity seeking the modification is continuously given opportunities to circumvent the opposition? Why not make charter schools meet the bar they set for themselves?! If they can't achieve their own stated goals from the outset, why should we take for granted that they will reach the goal of providing the type of education they say they will provide to students?

You have heard many arguments concerning the impact the vehicular and foot traffic will have on the neighborhood. These are quality of life issues that I hope you will seriously consider. The quality of life of hundreds of residents is in the hands of members of the Charter School Committee who do not live in our neighborhood. This is a weighty decision, impacting people you don't know, but who clearly care enough to come out in person and submit concerns in writing imploring you to consider their side in this matter.

Lastly, I understand that educational opportunities for Wilmington children need improvement. Will this one school with decreased enrollment goals really make that big of an impact on the education of Wilmington children? There are already three charter schools within blocks of this one, that do seem to be meeting their goals and enrolling larger numbers of students. Isn't that enough educational choice? I spoke at the last meeting of the committee and want to restate my request that you not let this school open in the midst of significant changes already being considered for education in Wilmington.

Sincerely,

Midtown Brandywine Resident
Johnnie Braxton

From: FaithMc0@aol.com
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Fwd: Denial for Freire/CSAC Major Modification Response to Initial Report.pdf
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2015 5:32:01 PM
Attachments: [CSACMajorModificationResponsetoInitialReport.pdf](#)

I am a resident of Midtown Brandywine. I am oppose to granting Freire their request for major modification. In their request, they summarized how they are changing their location from 920 French Street to 201 W. 14th Street. One of the many reasons I believe their request to be denied is that in order for that building to be renovated into a high school, they have applied for a 1.1 million dollar loan from the Barkley Bank. Should a school charter organization be allowed to borrow so much money to renovate a sight that, in my opinion, is in an unsuitable location in the first place. Aren't we, as tax payers, through public funds, going to be paying for this loan? Is this what DOE is allowing? The loan application is attached. It can be found in Appendix 2, pages 13 to 15 in Freire's Major Modification Response.

Freire has not to date applied for the zoning variance that they will need for parking. Neighbors have formally requested from the Zoning Board of Adjustment this action to clarify this issue. This is another reason that the request should not be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith McNamara
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