

Roll Call - 7:15pm - Neal, Nick, Katherine, Eli

City Charter School at National/Motor

Presentation by Valerie

Public charter school. Looking to grow by adding grades each year.

Must follow state guidelines - public meetings (Brown Act), transparent budgets

Founding group were moms from this community

Many students live around the proposed site

Finding a site was "kind of a miracle"

At capacity (in 3 years) will have 840 students in grades 6-12

Small classes in English language arts

Daily advisory program

Plan to use the whole proposed site except for the Chicken&Monkey Cafe.

Adding greenery and doing some upgrades to the site

Converting loading dock to gym and hope to use local parks or Vista Del Mar for sporting activities

Traffic

Proposed a driveway on the National side of the building. Come into the site and exit back on Motor and "most likely" make a right turn (for safety reasons).

Room for 13 cars to collect for pickup. Strong carpool and smooth pick up & drop off program.

Minimize impact on traffic.

Parking

Site has ample parking

74 onsite parking spots.

Students would not be allowed to drive and park

Staff parking only

Signed a lease; doing the plans and study

Did an initial traffic study; waiting for DOT to validate traffic study

Have not filed change of use permit yet

Wanted to hear from the community and respond

Public Comment

1. Business owner concerned about impact on business due to traffic

Easement for emergency in alley - concerned about students loitering and people not following the rules

2. Commuter concerned about traffic and traffic mitigation

3. Application is for 890 but they don't want to be that big

Motor has already been mitigated and heavily restricted - what would be the impact?
Parking will be reserved for C&M during peak hours (pick up and drop off)

4. Lee Wallach

Those in Palms deal with this intersection on a daily basis. Why is MAIA against it? Nothing to do with school or charters; it is because this isn't an appropriate location

We have three schools with thousands of kids within a few blocks. Made allowances for those schools for pick up and drop off.

Working for years to build up the vibrancy of this corner - everything from the bikeway (Expo), streetscape plans. A lot invested in keeping this corner for small businesses.

C&M Cafe is being refused a lease or ability to expand.

Battling the City to change the traffic mitigation due to this corner

Don't think the zoning is appropriate for the corner

Not appropriate to be across from bar and liquor store

Valerie - 800 hungry students and their parents will be good for business. Will be good neighbors. 800 volunteers for improving green spaces. Location hasn't been good for business because of traffic mitigation. Current site is next to a strip club...they even rent parking spaces. No other options - L.A. High is kicking them out. Been applying for Prop. 39 sites for four years. LAUSD does not have a history of giving them viable options. In a year to year lease. Need a home for 30 years to focus on educational programs and not real estate. Current landlord wants a single-use for the site. School adds a lot of vibrancy and consumer.

5. Parent living on Olympic and Manning

Really a neighborhood school

City School suggests that parents volunteer 50-100 hours a year.

"I love City School and want it to be here."

6. Live in Castle Heights but frequent a lot of the local businesses from Vegan Joint to dance school. Although we do not live in the area, we frequent the area.

7. Live in Palms and have lived here for 15 years. Permitted kids into Castle Heights School.

Traffic and parking are a problem all over the area. Beautiful location for the school. Good people attending it. They will do everything they can to support the community. Good partner in the community.

8. Lives in Palms. Location is wanted and needed. Charter school will give opportunities to people in the community to get ahead in life. Great staff and great education. Support location.

9. Lives nearby. Student goes to Overland Ave and City Charter. Spent over 100 hours volunteering at the school. These students are the most respectful group of students I have ever met. Conflict resolution, adults at home supporting them. Community service program built into the school curriculum.

10. Resident supports school, but has concerns. Street parking. Preference will be given to children in Palms residential area (Palms Elementary attendance area). It should be noted that Lycee, Notre Dame, Hamilton High and many others are near the freeway. A lot of applications come from Westwood Charter, Castle Heights, Overland Ave. Have to enforce change of use mitigations.

11. Live in Cheviot. Cycle down Motor Ave in the morning. Disappointed that traffic study isn't public. Concerned about safety of kids. Concerned about drop off in the morning. Look not at the school but at the traffic.

12. Concern about environmental impact. LAUSD has environmental health and safety issues; its against the law to build near a major roadway like the I-10 Freeway. Really dirty site. Christin Lonner - founding parent. Had same concerns as a parent. AS we look at urban schools, there are few options. There are ways to mitigate. Does not present more of a danger than where they currently live (or go to school). Need to find creative use of the site. Won't be a big field. The realities of urban schools is they are facing these issues.

"This school is a gem in the City."

Change in zoning request means that the Neighborhood Council can have significant input into this application.

13. Business owner at 3268 Motor Ave. What is the vision? What is the timeline? How do we engage in a respectful conversation? Don't want to be adversarial but 30 year lease. Entrance on National will only be open during pick up and drop off times. Student led conferences - parents present to teachers about what they have learned. A few times during the year when things are busier. Timeline would be September/October (ideally) but more likely to be during the middle of the school year.

14. West LA NC. Moved into their neighborhood. The best thing that happened to their neighborhood. The school has been nothing but great for the businesses and neighborhood. will be an asset to your community. All about the conditions you put on the school. This school is a great school. DOT won't give you the traffic study until its approved.

Greif - traffic and parking are always an issue. Egress onto Motor will be challenge. Letters of support from small businesses would be helpful. How does preference work for Palms kids?

Lipmen - brother-in-law owns Computech and will be impacted in some way. Came here for informational purposes (and to take minutes). Will need to consult City Attorney to see about recusal based on a perception of a conflict of interest.

MOTION TO TABLE (Anderberg, seconded by Greif). Unanimous.

Adjournment: 9pm

