

The enclosed petition opposing locating a 96-student charter school on Legion Rd. was prepared by the 4 abuttors to Legion Rd. who attended the June 10, 2004 hearing in Town Hall re: request for permit to allow more employees at the 1713 Legion Rd. site. All 8 Turnberry residences are represented by signatures and 36 of 56 Meadows residences are represented by signatures. Several more absent Meadows owners may sign when they return.

AGENDA #3a(5)

July 10, 2004

To the Chapel Hill Mayor and Town Council:

Please make this petition a part of the permanent file re: proposed Pace Academy at 1713 Legion Road.

We, the undersigned, are residents abutting Legion Road opposite and near to the proposed location of Pace Academy. We applaud the concept of a work-study high school, but we oppose locating a charter school for 96 students on 2-lane Legion Road.

It is regrettable that the first Food Lion building plan, which included an extended turn lane on Legion Road and on Ephesus Church Road, was not speedily approved several years ago by the Town Council. (Fortunately Food Lion ultimately renovated a building and repaved Ram's Plaza.) The original plan would have made the current Pace Academy proposal more feasible.

Lacking that, our specific objections are:

- 1. Safety problems will be increased by 96 students arriving and leaving on Legion Road at the same time five days a week..
- 2. Traffic is already heavy on 2-lane Legion Road because many people use Legion Road as a parallel to avoid the many lights on 15-501.
- 3. Turnberry subdivision opposite proposed Pace Academy on Legion Road has a normal-size entrance/exit road which the 8 Turnberry homeowners maintain privately. The former youngstudent charter school parents frequently used Turnberry Lane to park and turn, increasing the wear and tear on the private road and blocking residents' own entrance and exit. Posted prohibiting signs did not help. This becomes a trespass on private property which Turnberry residents will not tolerate again.
- 4. Even with the recently added parking at the proposed Pace Academy building, there will be only 20 parking spaces there. The request to increase the number of employees is not the real question. The plan to have 96 teenage students will bring in many more drivers, arriving and leaving all at once. This is the wrong enterprise in that building. Ordinary businesses would have customers or clients arriving and leaving at varied times throughout the day.

We have several questions whose answers might make the proposed Pace Academy more acceptable at this site:

- 1. Can the building owners or tenants lease parking spaces from Ram's Plaza, Talbert's, and/or Crown Honda for students who drive? This would siphon traffic to the 15-501 service road in the area...
- 2. Do you really think that teenagers are likely to take public buses, which involves waking up earlier, walking to and from bus stops in all weather, and probably more waiting and walking to get to work sites without a car? This is not realistic.
  - 3. What size vans and how many vans does Pace Academy plan to use, and on what schedule?

Please understand: we do not oppose charter schools, we do not oppose personal cars. Wider roads and adequate parking are necessary for 96 students on 2-lane Legion Road.

## The Meadows of Chapel Hill Homeowners

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John J. SILVASI	
Daniel J. Hill	

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