

Larry Pelegrin comments made to:

Delaware Department of Education—Charter School Accountability Committee—May 18, 2015

Subject: Freire Charter School Planned for Wilmington, DE.

I want to express my strong objection to the site chosen for Freire Charter at 201 West 14th Street for these reasons...**the location; the surrounding area and the building are unfit and unsafe for the intended purpose of a large population high school.**

I have lived in the Midtown Brandywine neighborhood for 19 years and love the diversity, comradery, friendship and energy where we live. Ours is a model for Center City living. However, the logistics are very tight with a very few single houses, many double houses, row homes and apartments. All the connecting streets are one way and all have street parking, the vast majority, on both sides of the street.

The location chosen by Freire Charter is at the corner of Orange St (one way) and 14th St. (one way), a 90° very tight turn. **This location will present safety issues for students** waking to and from bus stops or drop off locations at Rodney Sq., Market St. and Washington St. And this is in good weather. **Bad weather...heavy rain, snow and sleet will increase the safety risk exponentially. The sidewalks and streets will not be able to absorb the dramatic intensive increase in foot and auto traffic created by up to 500+ students coming in and out every day,** 5 days a week and for after hour and weekend school functions. I understand the building will not any gymnasium "like" athletic space nor is there athletic space or a field outside...and these are high school students with unlimited energy!

How this proposed location for Freire Charter got this far is mind boggling. I defy you or anyone on your committee or staff to visit Orange and 14th and not come away shaking your head and asking "what were they thinking". I understand Freire first chose another location but could not secure it...so they at least "got it right the first time" but then failed with "Plan B".

Is my opposition to Freire based on opposing Charter Schools? Absolutely not! I think the Charter concept when planned, executed and managed correctly, can add to the educational options and opportunities for Delaware's kids in a very positive way. Two of my grandsons will enter 9th grade at Wilmington Charter this fall. They and their parents are very excited. I am too.

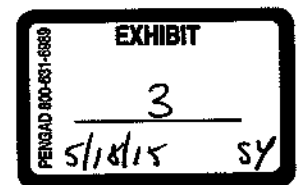
I've worked for large multi-national corporations to small entrepreneur companies for 49 years and one principal has always applied..."if you start with a bad plan, you can expect the same bad results". **Freire Charter located at 201 West 14th St. is a bad plan...a location completely unfit and unsafe for the intended purpose of a high traffic high school.**

For these reasons and the many reasons expressed by others, Freire Charter should not be approved. But rather **Freire should be directed to go back and fix the many serious issues that have been raised, including a new location and come back next year or later with a solid workable plan** that will result in a quality school for addition to the Wilmington high school education platform.

Thank you.



Larry Pelegrin
1327 Tatnall St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
Ph. # 302-373-7314



**Larry Pelegrin
1327 Tatnall St.
Wilmington, DE 19801**

February 9, 2015

To: Delaware Department of Education
Charter School Accountability Committee

Subject: Freire Charter School Planned for Wilmington, DE.

I write to express my strong objection to the site chosen for Freire Charter at 201 West 14th Street for three simple reasons...location-location-location!

I have lived in the Midtown Brandywine neighborhood for 19 years and love the diversity, comradery, friendship and energy where we live. Ours is a model for Center City living. However the logistics are very tight with double houses, row homes and apartments. All the connecting streets are one way and all have street parking, the vast majority, on both sides.

The location chosen by Freire Charter is at the corner of Orange St (one way) and 14th St. (one way), a 90° very tight turn. This location will present safety issues for students waking to and from bus stops or drop off locations at Rodney Sq., Market St. and Washington St. And this is in good weather. Bad weather...heavy rain, snow and sleet will increase the safety risk exponentially. The sidewalks and streets will not be able to absorb the dramatic intensive increase in foot and auto traffic created by up to 500+ students coming in and out every day, 5 days a week and for after hour school functions. I understand the building will not even have a cafeteria or gymnasium "like" athletic space.

How this proposed location for Freire Charter got this far is mind boggling. I defy you or anyone on your staff to visit Orange and 14th and not come away shaking your head and asking "what were they thinking". I understand Freire first chose another location but could not secure it...so they at least "got it right the first time".

Is my opposition to Freire based on opposing Charter Schools? Absolutely not! I think the Charter concept can, when planned, executed and managed correctly; add to the educational options and opportunities for Delaware's kids in a very positive way. Two of my grandsons are applying for and in the interview process for 9th grade at Wilmington Charter. They and their parents are hopeful and very excited. So am I.

I've worked for large multi-national corporations to small entrepreneur companies for 49 years and one principal has always applied..."if you start with a bad plan, you can expect the same bad results". Freire Charter located at 201 West 14th St. is a bad plan...a location completely unfit and unsafe for the intended purpose of a high traffic school.

"What were they thinking"?

Sincerely,



Larry Pelegrin
Ph. # 302-373-7314

From: Larry Pelegrin [<mailto:larrypelegrin@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 11:27 AM

To: infocso@doe.k12.de.us

Cc: Ben Cohen

Subject: Objection to Freire Charter School Planned for 201 West 14th St. Wilmington, DE

To: Delaware Department of Education
Charter School Accountability Committee

To whom it may concern,

Please see my attached letter in strong opposition to the location of Freire Charter School at 201 West 14th Street in Wilmington.

Thank you for considering my input as you make your decision in this matter. Please apply a heavy measure of common sense in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Larry Pelegrin

1327 Tatnall St.
Wilmington, DE.
Ph #. 302-373-7314
<Freire Charter.docx>

Larry Pelegrin

From: Larry Pelegrin <larrypelegrin@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 7:54 PM
To: lance@BigIdeasWilmington.com; JPierson@ymcade.org; bill@freirecharterschool.org; henry.smith@state.de.us; hreal@worldcafelive.com; felicia.wenell@freirecharterschool.org; CWillauer@westendnh.org
Subject: Objection to Freire Charter School Wilmington--Planned for 201 West 14th St. Wilmington, DE
Attachments: Freire Charter.docx

To: The Board of Directors of Freire Charter School-Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Directors,

Please see my attached letter (to the Delaware Department of Education) in strong opposition to the location of Freire Charter School at 201 West 14th Street in Wilmington.

You are an impressive group of leaders who give your time and talent to worthy endeavors outside your "day job"....such as Freire Charter School-Wilmington. I suggest that before you lend your weight and support to Freire Charter-Wilmington you should have all the facts, which I do not think you have.

Simply put, the success of the two Freire Charter Schools in Philadelphia cannot be translated to Wilmington because of one simple fact...the location of the school. The City of Wilmington is not even a few "large city blocks" in Philly so the success factors in Philly enabled by **easy school access do not translate to Wilmington**. But most important to explain this is the ludicrous location chosen by Freire Charter Wilmington....Orange (1-way) and 14th St(1-way). My letter attached explains my rational.

As you already know, the Wilmington School system is undergoing a stressful examination and passion filled debate to determine the best educational platform for our students today and in the years ahead. It's a tough discussion and it has long term consequences. A Freire Wilmington Charter that fails in its mission, only due to a simple "location" mistake, will only add to our City's problem...not to the solution.

Thank you for considering my input as you make your decision in this important matter. Please apply a "heavy measure" of common sense in your deliberations and come visit us at Orange and 14th St.

Sincerely,

Larry Pelegrin
1327 Tatnall St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
Ph. # 302-373-7314
