

31 July 2015

Zoning Administrator
Planning Division , City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara, Room 190
Alameda, CA 94501

Sir/Madam,

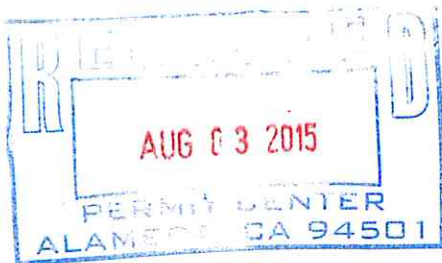
This letter is to express our full support of Catherine Cook's application for use of 508 Taylor as a school and child care center. We have frequently seen her classes passing through the neighborhood on field trips and have always noticed them to be a quiet and respectful group. The property selected would make an excellent school with facilities for gardening and other outdoor activities.

While we do not officially live on Taylor Street, we are the home immediately adjacent on 5th Street. We very much look forward to our new neighbors.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The top signature is in black ink and appears to be 'Louis Freeman'. The bottom signature is in blue ink and appears to be 'Susan Freeman'.

Louis and Susan Freeman
1426 5th Street
Alameda, CA 94501



David Sablan

From: lisa b <eusasil@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 4:06 PM
To: David Sablan
Cc: Mike Allen; tasti@gmail.com; aimeeivanoff@gmail.com; Lis Cox; idaoberman@comcast.net; stonehousedesignco@gmail.com
Subject: Notice of Public Hearing-PLN15-0323 508 Taylor

Hi David,

I received the notice of public hearing for Tues 8/18/15, 3p. Unfortunately that time during the work week will keep most of us who are affected by this issue from attending so if there is anyway that this can be changed to an evening meeting that would be greatly appreciated.

I have copied a few of my neighbors on this email in case they want to join the discussion.

I live at 522 Taylor Ave. The result of discussions with many of my neighbors have been that we are all very, very concerned about the impact this would have on our tiny one way street. There is absolutely no room for people to park for drop offs and pick ups. Therefore, all other drivers will be either, stuck behind long lines of parents trying to get their children to cooperate to get in or out of their cars, or they will be trying to swerve around them which puts all involved in harms' way.

It is not feasible to have that kind of activity on a narrow one way street especially when all the other neighbors are trying to get to work at the same time. I, along with all of the neighbors that i have spoken with, are completely against this business in our residential neighborhood on our narrow one-way street. A one-way street is not the place for 25 additional cars stopping and blocking traffic twice a day during peak commute hours.

Please change the time of the meeting so that at least some of us can attend.

Thank you and I am very much looking forward to hearing that this permit has been denied.

Lisa Brown
415-672-1085

Hila Ralston
18 Waterford Place
Alameda, CA 94502
August 5, 2015

Zoning Administrator
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA 94501
Fax 510-865-4053

RE: **Support** for application PLN15-0323, conditional use permit for 508 Taylor Avenue

Dear Zoning Administrator:

I am a resident of Alameda and a current parent of a child enrolled at the Da Vinci School located at 472/474 Taylor Avenue. I am writing to you in support of the conditional use permit and to urge you to approve the request to allow the school to move four doors down to 508 Taylor Avenue. By now I'm sure you've received other support letters detailing the facts of the proposal, including the plan for addressing traffic concerns via the excellent staggered drop-off and pick-up system already in place at the school, along with the excellent track record of the current school (just ask the current neighbors!), and the school's unique place in our community as a small and highly individualized academic and social environment for kids who have typically failed to thrive in other schools.

Today, I am writing you to share our personal story so that you can see why the Da Vinci School is so important to our community. My daughter entered Kindergarten with all the enthusiasm and energy that a little girl can muster. Her progress was supposedly "on track" although she was reversing letters and writing in all capitals with all the letters scrunched together and in no particular order. We started 1st grade. This is where my sweet daughter suddenly changed. I got called regularly that she was acting out- running out of class before reading/writing, hiding during recess, and pretending to be injured and ill. She was unable to read. She started acting out in the classroom. She told me that school was boring. My daughter's confidence was shattering before my eyes- she told me she was "stupid"- that she was the only one in her class that couldn't follow along. We were having melt downs at home. By November of that 1st grade school year, I was told that my 6 year old girl wasn't a good fit for the school. I took her home that day, asked for a medical leave of absence from my work at Abbott in Alameda, and contacted multiple specialists.

A Nuero-Psych evaluation shed light that she was highly gifted- at 6 years old she was able to

Zoning Administrator

August 5, 2015


Page 2

complete 3D puzzles that a 15 year old would be doing- she was in the 99th percentile for perceptual reasoning and 98% for verbal comprehension on the WISC-IV scale. With the significantly weaker efficiency skills in working memory and aspects of processing speed, and her lower academic skills in reading/writing, her profile was also exactly consistent with language based learning differences.

I went searching for a school that could be a good fit. Let me tell you, it was difficult! Schools that catered to kids with Dyslexia and other language based learning differences didn't have the academic acceleration and support for asynchronous development she needed, while schools with acceleration programs couldn't support her learning style differences. I emailed the Alameda Parents Network group asking for advice about her going into the public school system as a gifted child with a learning difference, and the personal emails I received were numerous, describing frustrated parents whose kids ended up being homeschooled due to the difficulties encountered. Even an educational specialist at a current Alameda public school sent me advice- maybe you'd be better off homeschooling.

Fast forward to today, my daughter has been at Da Vinci for almost a year. She can read! She is once again a happy child. She loves school, and has been thriving here. I can't imagine what would happen if her school closes. Da Vinci serves a much needed niche in our community and I hope you can support its continued presence through the approval of the use permit.

Sincerely,

 5-Aug-2015

Hila Ralston

Kirsten & Keith Evans-Orville
475 Hudson St.
Oakland, CA 94618

Zoning Administrator
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA, 94501
Phone 510-747-6850
Fax 510-865-4053



Dear Member of the Planning Committee,

I am writing in support of the Da Vinci Center's application (PLN15-0323), and I would like to make four main points. First is how unique and necessary the Da Vinci Center is for the students it serves; second, how much it has meant to our daughter and our family; third, how our family's connection with the Da Vinci Center impacts the Alameda community in general; and last, how extremely minimal the impact of this change of location will be on the neighborhood.

Our daughter Rachel is 9. After testing her when school became difficult, we discovered she was profoundly gifted but has slow processing speed. This meant that almost any close to normal classroom would be both too slow and too fast for her. Despite the fact her school at the time was filled with caring, well-trained teachers, there was no way they would ever be able to adapt the classroom or curriculum for her. She was becoming an unhappy, anxious kid, and we were powerless to help her. With the help of a wonderful educational consultant we started to search for a new school for her. We looked in Marin, San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley, and even considered the South Bay. We quickly found that there were very few options for gifted children, and almost none for gifted children with learning challenges. One school specializing in gifted children even told us they wouldn't consider our daughter because of her learning needs.

Finally, we found Da Vinci, one of the few, if not only, schools in the Bay Area to serve the needs of children who are both gifted and have learning disabilities. A year there has restored our daughter's confidence. She has work she is interested in and a place where she feels accepted and valued. Imagine, if you will, sending your bright,

radiant, eager learner off to school and then finding that child slowly disappearing, losing her confidence and becoming beset by anxiety and the suspicion that something somewhere is wrong with her. Now, imagine seeing you child re-emerge, joyful, sure of herself, ready to create and excited about sharing what she has learned. We owe that to Da Vinci.

So what does bringing this grateful family to Alameda on a daily basis mean for the community at large? In our case, a lot of our shopping has shifted to Alameda. We frequent—and I do mean frequent—the Alameda Target and Walgreen's. We buy our gas at the new Safeway gas station. We buy birthday presents at Toy Safari on Park Street. We bought our younger son glasses from an optician on Park Street and we held his birthday party at Crab Cove. We take our after-school outings at local cafes near the school. We recently took out-of-town guests for dim sum at East Ocean, instead of our usual visit to Emeryville. In short, our presence at the school means much-needed sales tax revenue comes into the Alameda community, which in turn supports Alameda families.

Finally, it's hard to imagine that a school whose attendance is smaller than most children's birthday parties will have much noticeable impact on parking and traffic. I have never had trouble on our commute, despite passing several schools on our normal route. Nor have I ever had trouble finding parking, even on days when half of Taylor is shut down for street sweeping. Last year, several Da Vinci families carpooled and one came by bike. Our drop offs and pickups are staggered and it's rare for even several of us to arrive at the same time. For my family's part, I'll be driving the same route and parking in the same place as last year, then walking my daughter the few steps to Da Vinci's new location, simply because we find it easier.

So we humbly ask, for the benefit of our daughter and the other students at Da Vinci, that you approve this application, so that this unique and wonderful school continues to be there as a resource for families who need it.

Kirsten and Keith Evans-Orville
evans-orville@comcast.net

My apologies for being unable to sign this properly. We are on the East Coast and have no access to a printer.

August 7, 2015

Zoning Administrator
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA, 94501
Phone 510-747-6850
Fax 510-865-4053

RE: application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at
508 Taylor Avenue.

Dear Zoning Administrator:

I am writing to express my support for the above application. I am an Alameda resident and have been for approximately 15 years. My husband and I have two children in the public school system.

As the number of families with children grows here in Alameda, it is good to see that there will be a variety of educational and day-care options in the neighborhood. Providing diverse options for families to educate their children is what Alameda should strive to provide and to do so is in the best interests of parents and their children.

The addition of such a small school on Taylor Ave. will be compatible with the neighborhood. There is already a variety of non-residential organizations, such as St. Barnabas Church on the corner of 6th and Taylor, as well as a day-care catty-cornered from the Church. However on the other end of Taylor (near 5th) there will just be the new location of the Da Vinci school, which is only 4 doors down from its current location.

I hope that you approve this conditional use permit.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Williams

David Sablan

From: Henry Dong
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 8:20 AM
To: David Sablan
Subject: FW: Supporting application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at 508 Taylor Avenue.

From: Pradeep Madhavarapu [mailto:mjpradeep@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 2:43 PM
To: Henry Dong
Subject: Supporting application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at 508 Taylor Avenue.

Dear Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to express my support for the above application.

About the School

Da Vinci is a small private school in Alameda which has operated as a home daycare at 472/474 Taylor for over two years. The school serves the needs of children who given their unique learning styles, need educators in an educational institution that can understand and serve their needs without the hassle of costly and time consuming IEPs (Individualized Education Plans). In essence, Da Vinci provides a unique and successful form of individualized education not found in the public or private school systems in the Bay Area.

The school currently serves 10 children, but is licensed for 14, and is seeking approval to move its operations four doors down from its current location to 508 Taylor Avenue.

Addressing Traffic Concerns

A member of the community near the new location has voiced concerns about parking and traffic. The school has always strived to be a good neighbor, and will be implementing a staggered drop-off and pick-up system in order to effectively manage traffic issues. To keep families and traffic moving along and to prevent loitering, the school has implemented a strict "no socializing" policy in regards to pick-up and drop-off (i.e., if parents wish to talk to teachers, a meeting time must be set up). The school has also assigned parents a 15 minute window in which they are allowed to drop off and pick up their children; and in each 15 minute window only 5 students will be allowed to be dropped off/picked up.

To further combat traffic, congestion, and parking issues, we will have a second driveway at 472 Taylor which comes complete with an extra off-street parking slot which is available to the school at all times. It is also important to note, just because there will be 15 children enrolled at the school starting September 2015, it DOES NOT mean 15 cars will be commuting to and from the school. Many of the families already walk or carpool to school.

In summary, the combination of assigned 15 minute drop-off and pick-up windows of no more than 5 students at a time, 2 driveways, street-side parking available for the school's use, carpooling, and those who will be commuting by foot, there will be very little vehicular traffic added to the neighborhood.

Benefit to the Community

Even though it is a little school, Da Vinci is an amazing asset to the community of Alameda for many reasons and should be allowed to grow and thrive in the community. Most notably, it takes a toll off of the local school district, its teachers, and students.

Students enrolled at Da Vinci have often struggled in traditional learning environments (i.e., public schools), even with IEPs which are, in theory, created to help these students learn and function more comfortably in a traditional classroom setting, they are more often than not viewed as a burden to enforce and follow. Logistically, it is difficult for a teacher in a classroom of 20 or more students to cater to the individual needs of 2-3 kids with IEPs while still maintaining the status quo of the other students. To put it bluntly, it is unfair to ask an educator to cater to a small minority while neglecting the majority, it is not conducive to learning or teaching.

Da Vinci relieves this burden on our public school system by catering to this small minority which needs highly individualized academic and social environments to succeed. Without these accommodations, these students can become disruptive in a traditional classroom setting which is not beneficial for more traditional learners/students, thus creating frustration for all parties involved (e.g., students and teachers). By granting Da Vinci a conditional use permit, the town will be doing what is best for our schools and community as a whole. Teachers in our public schools can now focus on teaching students who are more comfortable in a traditional educational environment, and students who do need individualized instruction can have access to it without being a strain to our public school system.

Our public schools are already taxed of their resources, so let's do what is right for our children and community and allow the Da Vinci School to grow and flourish so students who are struggling in the public schools can have their needs met, and students in our public schools can have the full focus and attention of their teachers.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,
Pradeep Madhavarapu.

David Sablan

From: Henry Dong
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 8:19 AM
To: David Sablan
Subject: FW: PLN15-0323 Conditional Use permit for private school in R-2 at 508 Taylor Avenue

From: Jennifer Callahan [mailto:jencallahan8@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 2:50 PM
To: Henry Dong
Subject: PLN15-0323 Conditional Use permit for private school in R-2 at 508 Taylor Avenue

Dear Mr. Dong and the Administrator:

I am writing to you in support of the granting of the conditional use permit to Catherine Cook and the Davinci Center that would allow her to continue to run the school at 508 Taylor that she has been running in the same neighborhood (a block away) for over two years. I am a parent of a student who attended Davinci last year and who will attend this year. I understand that traffic to the neighborhood has caused some neighbors concerns, so I would like to confirm that last year our family carpooled with two other families, so that three students only caused one car to park on the street for a short period of time (usually 10 minutes) at drop off and pick up. This year we will also be carpooling with two other families. Our school community understands that the school exists in a home within a neighborhood and parents make sure that there is never any double parking (or any illegal parking) or loud noises on Taylor Avenue. I can honestly say that, because the drop off period spans a half-hour window of time, there was never a day when there was a crowd or parking spots in front of the home (or across the street) were not available. Most significantly, it is my understanding that Davinci has been operating at 472 Taylor Avenue for over two years without any complaints from the current neighbors, who live one block away from 508 Taylor.

As a parent, I would also like to say that Davinci Center has been a life saver for my 11 year old son, who is gifted but also has learning differences and was struggling in the special education program at his former school. It is an amazing, thoughtful and caring environment that serves a population of students that have no other school that serves their unique learning needs. It is the only school of this kind in the East Bay, which is why we travel from Oakland (in our carpool with 2 other families) to Alameda for this specialized environment.

Please grant Davinci Center the permit to allow it to move less than a block away and continue to serve students and enrich the neighborhood and Alameda. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Callahan

812 Northvale Road
Oakland, CA 94610
(510) 451-2680

David Sablan

From: lis cox <lis@talkingstory.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 7:48 PM
To: David Sablan
Cc: Mike and Ellen Allen; Lisa Brown; tasti@gmail.com; aimeeivanoff@gmail.com; Ida Oberman; stonehousedesignco@gmail.com; The Levys; Irene Rakochy
Subject: Re: Notice of Public Hearing-PLN15-0323 508 Taylor

To Alameda City Zoning,

After some real thought and deliberation, we have decided to add our voices to neighbors from the 500 block of Taylor who oppose zoning for a school on this block.

We were torn due to our fervent support for local Alameda schools and being an integral part of starting a new charter school in Oakland (on a major thoroughfare).

We have read and heard from a proponent of this school regarding some of the proposed traffic and safety adjustments, staggered drop off and pick up and possible drop off children on the next block of Taylor.

All things considered and weighed our conclusion is that the logistics of this location for a school is simply a bad idea.

In our view, this narrow one way block is just not appropriate for a school with approximately 12 children or above.

We wish the school founder the best and would support her efforts in a location that allows for a real dedicated area for safe drop off and pick up of children.

Due to work schedules, we will not be able to join for the hearing this coming Tuesday but trust that you will take this letter as a statement of our considered opposition to the proposed zoning for a school at 508 Taylor Avenue.

Thank you,

Lis Cox and Ida Oberman
516 Taylor Avenue
Alameda, California
510-521-7669

On Aug 4, 2015, at 4:06 PM, lisa b <eusasil@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi David,

I received the notice of public hearing for Tues 8/18/15, 3p. Unfortunately that time during the work week will keep most of us who are affected by this issue from attending

so if there is anyway that this can be changed to an evening meeting that would be greatly appreciated.

I have copied a few of my neighbors on this email in case they want to join the discussion.

I live at 522 Taylor Ave. The result of discussions with many of my neighbors have been that we are all very, very concerned about the impact this would have on our tiny one way street. There is absolutely no room for people to park for drop offs and pick ups. Therefore, all other drivers will be either, stuck behind long lines of parents trying to get their children to cooperate to get in or out of their cars, or they will be trying to swerve around them which puts all involved in harms' way.

It is not feasible to have that kind of activity on a narrow one way street especially when all the other neighbors are trying to get to work at the same time. I, along with all of the neighbors that i have spoken with, are completely against this business in our residential neighborhood on our narrow one-way street. A one-way street is not the place for 25 additional cars stopping and blocking traffic twice a day during peak commute hours.

Please change the time of the meeting so that at least some of us can attend.

Thank you and I am very much looking forward to hearing that this permit has been denied.

Lisa Brown
415-672-1085

David Sablan

From: Henry Dong
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 8:19 AM
To: David Sablan
Subject: FW: Letter of Support: PLN15-032

From: Sonali Joshi [mailto:sonajoshi@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 9:24 PM
To: Henry Dong
Subject: Letter of Support: PLN15-032

Henry Dong,

We are writing a letter of support for PLN15-032 regarding a conditional use permit for private school in R-2 zone at 508 Taylor Ave.

As a member of the school community, I would like to reiterate the school's commitment for being great neighbors highly cognizant of traffic, parking and other issues that may arise with the small school.

The vast majority of the parents of Da Vinci have in the past or are planning to carpool, walk or take an alternative form of transportation. Those who do drive are well aware of the need to utilize the available driveways and the drop off and pickup procedures outlined by the school.

The school also is only adding a few additional kids versus its current location on the same street. Therefore, the impact to the neighborhood versus the current state of affairs is minimal.

The school is serving a very unique, under-served population of high potential, highly gifted students. These students often do not thrive in a traditional school environment given that most schools are not set up to educate the 99th percentile of students in terms of IQs. These are highly intense and sensitive children who are multiple grade levels ahead academically yet have so many struggles socially and emotionally.

Da Vinci is a have for these kids. Letting them be kids. Letting them grow at their own rate. Letting them feel normal. giving them the self confidence, told and structure they need to thrive not just as children but as adults.

They all crave an opportunity. They all deserve a special place like Da Vinci. A place that otherwise would not exist for this population. There simply are not that many options for these kids in the East Bay.

Given how much this school means to the students and their families, I am confident in the school community's ability to work through any and all concerns the neighbors have now and may have in the future. This is quite evident by the lack of complaints from current neighbors of the current Da Vinci Center a few doors down.

This simply means too much for everyone involved. It truly has been life changing for the students and families there.

Please support this small school's ability to serve a population that deserves to be served ... a small school (17 children) dedicated to being great neighbors.

Sonali and Simon Joshi

David Sablan

From: Henry Dong
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 8:18 AM
To: David Sablan
Subject: FW: support for application PLN15-0323

-----Original Message-----

From: sarah kim [mailto:sarahjokim@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 9:45 PM
To: Henry Dong
Subject: support for application PLN15-0323

Dear Mr. Dong,

I support the application for a conditional use permit for a private school in R-2 Zone at 508 Taylor Ave (PLN15-0323). The Da Vinci school fills an important need in the community as it provides an excellent education to a small group of students who fail to thrive in traditional schools.

The new location of the school, which is 4 doors down from its current location, allows for a small increase in the number of students that are able to attend. My son will be one of the new students.

As a new member of the Da Vinci school I am impressed by the kindness of the staff and other parents. They strive to be good neighbors, as the current neighbors of the school can attest to, and I am confident that the Da Vinci school will continue to be a positive presence in the neighborhood at their new location.

Sincerely,
Sarah Kim
1810 Central Ave #310
Alameda, CA 94501

David Sablan

From: Henry Dong
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 8:16 AM
To: David Sablan
Subject: FW: Letter in Support of Application PLN15-0323 for Da Vinci Center

From: celinesherwood@aol.com [mailto:celinesherwood@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2015 12:31 PM
To: Henry Dong
Subject: Letter in Support of Application PLN15-0323 for Da Vinci Center

August 9, 2015

**Henry Dong, Project Planner
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA, 94501
Phone 510-747-6850
Fax 510-865-4053**

**RE: application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at
508 Taylor Avenue.**

Dear Mr. Henry Dong:

I am writing to express my support for the above application.

About the School

The Da Vinci Center [referred to herein as **"THE SCHOOL"**], is a small private school in Alameda which has operated as a home daycare at 472/474 Taylor for over two years. The school serves the needs of children who given their unique learning styles, need educators in an educational institution that can understand and serve their needs without the hassle of costly and time consuming IEPs (Individualized Education Plans). In essence, the school provides a unique and successful form of individualized education not found in the public or private school systems in the Bay Area.

The school currently serves 10 children, but is licensed for 14, and is seeking approval to move its operations four doors down from its current location to **508 Taylor Avenue**. The new location will serve 15 children beginning September 2015 (this is an increase of 5 students from its previous academic year).

Addressing Traffic Concerns

A member of the community near the new location has voiced concerns about parking and traffic at Da Vinci's new location. We have always strived to be good neighbors, and will be implementing a staggered drop-off and pick-up system in order to effectively manage traffic issues. To keep families and traffic moving along and to prevent loitering, the school has implemented a strict "no socializing" policy in regards to pick-up and drop-off (i.e., if parents wish to talk to teachers, a meeting time must be set up. The school has also set up several parent-only meetings throughout the year outside of weekdays and work hours to allow parents to meet and socialize with each other, most of which occur off-site from the school). The school has also assigned parents a 15 minute window in which they are allowed to drop off and pick up their children; and in each 15 minute window only 5 students will be allowed to be dropped off/picked up.

To further combat traffic, congestion, and parking issues, we will have a second driveway at 472 Taylor which comes complete with an extra off-street parking slot which is available to the school at all times. It is also important to note, just because there will be 15 children enrolled at the school starting September 2015, it **DOES NOT** mean 15 cars will be commuting to and from the school. Many of the families walk or carpool, thus drastically decreasing the actual amount of cars going to and from Da Vinci. At the time of writing this email, it is estimated that families are looking to carpool 2-3 students at a time, and 2 -3 families will be walking (i.e, only 4-6 cars will be driving around during the pick-up and drop-off times).

In summary, the combination of assigned 15 minute drop-off and pick-up windows of no more than 5 students at a time, 2 driveways, street-side parking available for the school's use, carpooling, and those who will be commuting by foot, there will be very little vehicular traffic added to the neighborhood.

Benefit to the Community

Even though it is a little school, Da Vinci is an amazing asset to the community of Alameda for many reasons and should be allowed to grow and thrive in the community. Most notably, it takes a toll off of the local school district, its teachers, and students.

Students enrolled at Da Vinci have often struggled in traditional learning environments (i.e., public schools), even with IEPs which are, in theory, created to help these students learn and function more comfortably in a traditional classroom setting, they are more often than not viewed as a burden to enforce and follow. Logistically, it is difficult for a teacher in a classroom of 25 students (the average class size in the Alameda School District) to cater to the individual needs of 2-3 or even more kids with IEPs while still maintaining the status quo of the other traditional/on par learners. To put it bluntly, it is unfair to ask an educator to cater to a small minority while neglecting the majority, it is not conducive to learning or teaching.

Da Vinci relieves this burden on our public school system by catering to this small minority which needs highly individualized academic and social environments to succeed. Without these accommodations, these students can become disruptive in a traditional classroom setting which is not beneficial for more traditional learners/students, thus creating frustration for all parties involved

(e.g., students and teachers). By granting Da Vinci a conditional use permit, the town will be doing what is best for our schools and community as a whole. Teachers in our public schools can now focus on teaching students who are more comfortable in a traditional educational environment, and students who do need individualized instruction can have access to it without being a strain to our public school system.

One way to look at it is that by allowing 15 children to pursue their education at Da Vinci, we are in essence, relieving the school district of almost an entire classroom! And should Da Vinci grow to its allotted 25 students, it will most certainly relieve the Alameda school district of an entire classroom which will help address the overcrowding the schools have faced in recent years. Our public schools are already taxed of their resources, so let's do what is right for our children and community and allow the Da Vinci School to grow and flourish so students who are struggling in the public schools can have their needs met, and students in our public schools can have the full focus and attention of their teachers. Having 4-6 extra cars commute in and around Alameda is a small price to pay if the students enrolled at our public schools benefit by being able to learn in a distraction-free environment. It is a miniscule price to pay for a better quality of education and instruction for all of the students in our community.

It is also important to note, parents who do not live in Alameda, but whose children attend Da Vinci, do patronize businesses in Alameda. It's more convenient to do your errands in the town in which your child attends school rather than running back and forth between Alameda and their home town, and thus provides extra revenue for Alameda. Two families have even moved to Alameda specifically for the school which illustrates the value of the school to the community.

Please put the needs of the community, our public schools, traditional and non-traditional learners first and approve the conditional permit for the Da Vinci Center.

Sincerely,
Shon & Celine Sherwood

August 10, 2015

Zoning Administrator

Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall

2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190

Alameda, CA 94501

Re: PLN15-0323 – 508 Taylor Avenue – Use Permit – Applicant: Catherine Cook

Mr. or Ms. Zoning Administrator,

We are the owners of 515 Taylor Avenue, and we are strongly opposed to granting an Administrative Use Permit to applicant Catherine Cook for the operation of a private school at 508 Taylor in our neighborhood's Two-Family Residence (R-2) Zoning District. Reasons for our opposition to allowing operation of the school include the following:

- The 500 block of Taylor Avenue runs one-way from 6th Street to 5th Street, with a single lane of traffic. Parking on this narrow block is only allowed on the odd numbered side of the street. The even side of the street (the side that includes the applicant's address) is clearly marked with No Parking signs. The street is already heavily burdened with too many cars and a lack of parking for all residents. There is no legal way for an additional 25 families to begin dropping off and picking up students each day at 508 Taylor—even if staggered arrival and departure times are used, there will not be enough parking spots on the odd-numbered side of the street, and "quick stops" on the even-numbered side would be unsafe, disruptive, and illegal. Momentarily stopping in residents' driveways to drop off or load children would of course be unacceptable. Some school parents might simply resort to stopping in the middle of the road, creating a dangerous and intolerable situation for unescorted students, blocked residents trying to get to and from work and school, and delayed local commuters to Paden elementary school, Junior Jets middle school, Encinal high school, and St. Barnabas church. Our small block cannot handle a daily influx of 50 additional private-school student trips, plus the comings and goings of staff. A business of this scale is inappropriate for the traffic capacity of the neighborhood.

- The applicant has suggested that students could be dropped off at a personal residence in the 400 block of Taylor Avenue, and then staff would walk the children to and from the proposed school at 508 Taylor several times a day. The offset intersection where Taylor Avenue meets 5th Street creates a blind corner which is not marked for pedestrian crossing. Sight lines are very limited, making foot traffic at that intersection extremely dangerous. Students would be better served to have a school located in an appropriately-zoned district where such unsafe compromises are not necessary.
- The plans and narrative submitted to the Alameda Zoning Administration for review are inaccurate as to availability of off-street parking at 508 Taylor. The narrative states, "There are three tandem off-street parking spaces on the driveway." According to David Sablan, Planner 1 - Community Development Department, normal parking spaces are 8-1/2' wide by 18' long but the minimum allowed would be 7-1/2' wide by 15' long. The applicant's plan indicates an 8' wide by 49' long driveway. Yet the width at the front of the building, measuring sideways to the neighbor's existing concrete curb (510 Taylor), is only 7'-2.5" which is several inches short of the legal minimum. Compounding this insufficient width, there is also not enough legal length: the minimum length of 15' from the abovementioned constriction point would put the car onto the existing sidewalk. Thus 508 Taylor has NO legal off street parking.
- We have reviewed the plans on-line and do not see any ADA required access, including any equal facilitation. We would like to know what the staff recommendations are for ADA compliance for this Use Permit request. We are wondering if an ADA compliant ramp would take up the entire front yard and encroach on either parking or sidewalk, and change any setback requirements. If an ADA ramp is not required to be placed in front, and the applicant instead uses the driveway to build this access, then of course even the small non-legal gap of off-street parking in the existing driveway would be eliminated.
- The plans do not show ADA compliant restrooms nor do they show ADA compliant access from the deck to the yard or from the first floor to the second floor.
- Currently the school, at its location in the 400 block of Taylor Avenue, is licensed for a capacity of 14 students through the Department of Social Services. The applicant states that they "hope to enroll 15-18 students for the fall." The applicant also states, "...and grow to 25 students for the fall of 2016." Neither the Fall 2015 population of 15-18 students, nor the anticipated expansion to 25 students, are within the legal capacity for which they are currently licensed.

- Our 500 block of Taylor Avenue would be irreparably harmed by the introduction of a business that robs us of the residential character of our neighborhood, decreases our property values, and brings additional traffic that disrupts flow, takes away our extremely limited parking, and endangers the safety of pedestrians (both incoming students and local children).
- This business should be located in a business-zoned area, not in the midst of our homes.

In closing, we would like to emphasize that a new *residential* neighbor would be a welcome addition to our close knit, family-friendly block. In contrast, we are vehemently opposed to allowing the City of Alameda to compromise the safety and integrity of our R2-zoned community by accommodating a business that should be located in a business district. Please do NOT grant an Administrative Use Permit for operation of a school at 508 Taylor Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve and Mary Levy

515 Taylor Avenue

Alameda, CA 94501

SAVE OUR SCHOOL!

We, the undersigned, as the parents, friends, neighbors, teachers and allies of the Da Vinci School in Alameda- urge the planning division of Alameda to approve the school's request in support of Da Vinci's conditional use permit at 508 Taylor, application PLN15-0323.

About the School: □ Da Vinci is a small private school in Alameda operating as a home daycare at 472/474 Taylor for over two years, serving the needs of gifted children with and without learning differences, who typically have failed to thrive at previous schools. The school currently serves 10 children, and is licensed for 14 and provides a unique and very successful style of individualized education not found anywhere else. The school plans to move to **508 Taylor Avenue**, □ four doors away from the current location. The new location will serve 15 children beginning in Fall 2015. These are an amazing group of children, many with learning differences, who need a small and highly individualized academic and social environment to succeed. The children engage in a variety of academic and outdoor activities, and can often be seen walking to the nearby park, Ballena Bay, Crab Cove, and many other places for hands-on education and outdoor exercise.

Addressing Traffic Concerns: A member of the community near the new location has voiced concerns about parking and traffic. We have always strived to be good neighbors, and have an excellent staggered drop-off and pick-up system in place to eliminate excess traffic concerns. Our current neighbors are quite supportive of the school and have never noticed any excess traffic or other issues. A similar plan will be employed in the new location. First, not every child is driven to school, some walk and some families carpool. Fifteen children will be dropped off over the course of two hours, meaning that often only a single child – but never more than five – will be either driven or walked to the school at any one time, largely using the school driveway (and now we will have a second alternate driveway at 472 Taylor where the director of the school lives with her son and has an extra off-street parking space available to the school at all times). Our parents are courteous and aware drivers, and are committed to increasing safety and awareness, since their own children are attending school in the neighborhood. As we've demonstrated for the past two years in our current location, this means that there will be little to no noticeable impact on traffic and parking in the new location.

Risk to Children if Permit Is Not Approved: This amazing group of children risks much if the conditional use permit for the new location is denied. These displaced children would be forced to go through a lengthy Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process, which many of them had been through in the past but failed to thrive under. This would place an additional burden on the Alameda public school system, including teachers, children, and parents. We are confident that our plan to stagger and minimize traffic is sufficient, our current neighbors have verified that our school has not presented significant traffic impact in the past two years, and that together with the needs of these children presents compelling evidence to approve the permit. Da Vinci is the type of school we should

champion, to address the ever increasing needs of our community. We, the undersigned, are the neighbors, friends, teachers, parents, and allies of the Da Vinci School community, and urge you to approve this conditional use permit.

	Name	From	Comments
1.	Hila Ralston	Alameda, CA	
2.	Nathan Petty	Alameda, CA	
3.	Sarah Kim	Alameda, CA	
4.	Celine Sherwood	Moraga, CA	
5.	Brian Lau	Alameda, CA	
6.	Pradeep Madhavarapu	Mountain View, CA	
7.	Lily Huang	Berkeley, CA	
8.	Kirsten Evans-Orville	Oakland, CA	
9.	Harold Lee	Alameda, CA	
11.	Jean DiMaria	Berkeley, CA	The student population this school educates is dramatically underserved!
12.	Martin Medeiros	Alameda, CA	
13.	Kathryn Irby	GULFPORT, MS	
14.	charlie michelson	Oakland, CA	
15.	Soyoung lee	Alameda, CA	
16.	Francis McIlveen	Alameda, CA	
17.	Theresa Lozach	Berkeley, CA	
18.	Ruth Ann Binder	Oakland, CA	The Da Vinci school is a very important place for children's whose educational and social-emotional needs cannot be met anywhere else in our area. I ask neighbors to open up their hearts and minds and do what they are able to help this school relocate to it's new locations. By doing so, you will be making a direct difference in people's lives.
19.	Lisa Stonestreet	Oakland, CA	
20.	Helen Medeiros	Alameda, CA	
21.	Emma Pigott	Alameda, CA	
22.	Brenda Collins	General Electric, United Kingdom	
23.	sonia beers	oakland, CA	
24.	Carol Fusco	Berkeley, CA	I know one of the children in this school and it has made a huge difference in her life. Perhaps the current neighbors could talk to the one whose concerned and allay their fears.
25.	Mitch Huitema	San Leandro, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
26.	Leemore Federman	Alameda, CA	
27.	Tim Holmes	San Leandro, CA	This is a very valuable resource to us and we value it being offered. It's no surprise to us that of the schools that best suited our children, the top two were in Alameda. While we don't live in your city, we do shop and dine there, more so because of our being there for the school.
28.	Sara Nelson	Ipswich, United Kingdom	
29.	Cheryl Bowersox	Alameda, CA	
30.	Sonali Joshi	Oakland, CA	Da Vinci is a unique school making an enormous difference in students' lives ... the school, its parents and its students are also dedicated to being great neighbors - carpooling, shopping/eating in Alameda, parking on driveways, etc.
31.	Solvejg Rose	Alameda, CA	Da Vinci Center is and always was a very respectful neighbor during the last two years of the operation of the school at their current location. Our property is located directly next to the current location and we had never any traffic or noise issues/complaints. We are supporting the opening of Da Vinci Center at 508 Taylor Street, because that allows our child to attend Da Vinci and walk to her new school in September.
32.	Gabrielle Jones	Pittsburg, CA	This school does SO much for children who are SUPER gifted, and don't fit into "regular" schools. The kids deserve a place where they fit in and can learn the way THEY learn.
33.	Shahid Said	Alameda, CA	
34.	Danielle Gilbert	Alameda, CA	
35.	Jennifer Monahan	kirkland, WA	
36.	Helga Boyle	Redwood City, CA	I have grandchildren who live in Alameda and my daughter-in-law is a teacher in Alameda. I know that there are many children with learning disabilities who do not have a chance to grow in a public school so to deny them the chance to be able to grow and become productive member of society just because you think that parking "MAY" become a problem seems selfish.
37.	Layne Vann	Alameda, CA	
38.	Rachel Stevenson	Alameda, CA	
39.	Julie Ferguson	Alameda, CA	
40.	Ann-Marie Odling	Alameda, CA	
41.	Meagan Siemons	Oakland, CA	
42.	Eleanor Grakauskas	Moraga, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
43.	Carmen Watson	Alameda, CA	
44.	Skylar Herrera	Alameda, CA	
45.	Liuba Adar	San Jose, CA	
46.	Jennifer Frankel	Alameda, CA	
47.	Jennifer Falletti	Alameda, CA	
48.	Lydie Thomas	Alameda, CA	
49.	Manya Morris	San Leandro, CA	
50.	Kenneth Fullmer	Berkeley, CA	<p>Da Vinci has been such a godsend for our beloved Rachel. So bright that even a 'good' private school was boring her to tears (literally), so shy that she had a hard time with the social aspects of school.</p> <p>At Da Vinci, she is blossoming, growing and developing so beautifully, that it's loss would be a real tragedy for her, her parents and those others who love her so much.</p>
51.	Kevin Trimmer	Corona, CA	
52.	Natasha Kuczynska	Oakland, CA	
53.	Bernadette Whitman	Alameda, CA	
54.	Linda Woodworth	Alameda, CA	
55.	JP Frary	Alameda, CA	
56.	Stephanie Anderson	Alameda, CA	
57.	Abu Pigott	Alameda, CA	
58.	David Carman	Moraga, CA	
59.	Helen Carman	Moraga, CA	
60.	Nicole Johnson	Carlsbad, CA	
61.	Martha Tapia	San Jose, CA	
62.	Deborah Tapia	Gilroy, CA	
63.	Alana Dill	Alameda, CA	<p>Alameda is a diverse community and needs to offer diverse educational options for children whom the public school system can't accommodate. The NIMBY attitude about traffic is selfishly unreasonable considering how the school actually addresses the issue.</p>
64.	Aiko Pandorf	Berkeley, CA	
65.	Shon Sherwood	Moraga, CA	
66.	Stephanie Pile	Alameda, CA	
67.	Esther Saidman	Alameda, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
68.	Lesley Mandros Bell	Oakland, CA	While neighbors are right to be alert to changes in their neighborhood, the past history of this school indicates that it will be an asset to its new neighbors rather than an nuisance.
69.	Sherri Gillespie	LOS GATOS, CA	WE MUST Save Their Small Private Community School in Alameda!
70.	Scott Osborn	Alameda, CA	
71.	Bia Stephanos-Hayes	Grass Valley, CA	
72.	Calvin Holmes	San Leandro, CA	
73.	Robin Seeley	Staten Island, NY	
74.	Kenneth Gourdine	Alameda, CA	
75.	Erika Jackson	Alameda, CA	
76.	Marjut Smith	San Leandro, CA	
77.	Vered Federman	Los Angeles, CA	
78.	Debra Jordan	Rio Linda, CA	
79.	Benjamin Gillman	Los Angeles, CA	
80.	Jennifer Stewart-Smith	Alameda, CA	
81.	Deanna Ralston	Lincoln, CA	
82.	Sundari Johansen	Alameda, CA	
83.	Pamela Ralston	Lincoln, CA	
84.	Dennis Blanchard	San Francisco, CA	
85.	Rachel Federman	Alameda, CA	
86.	Paal Wik	Alameda, CA	
87.	Sam Hurwitt	Alameda, CA	
88.	amy chiu	Alameda, CA	
89.	Jaydee Cohen	Alameda, CA	
90.	Duane O'Brien	Alameda, CA	
91.	Caradwen Braskat	Alameda, CA	
92.	Angela Ausemus	Oakley, CA	
93.	Rajeeva Ranjan	New Delhi, India	
94.	Jennifer Smell	COALDALE, PA	
95.	Ayo Pigott	Alameda, CA	
96.	Brant Smith	Alameda, CA	
97.	Hayuta Jain	Alamo, CA	
98.	Monica barry	alameda, CA	
99.	Soung Bae	Alameda, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
100.	Dimitris Dallis	Thessaloniki, Greece	
101.	Sharon Holder	Antioch, CA	
102.	Sara Cohen	Alameda, CA	
103.	Jennifer Callahan	Oakland, CA	Traffic concerns can be addressed by carpooling, staggered assigned drop offs and alternative drop off locations. Please allow this unique and wonderful school enrich our community in Alameda.
104.	Kathleen Petty	Lompoc, CA	This small community school has been a life-saver to our grandson. Because of his unique learning style he would be unable to thrive in a large public classroom. He has been a student at Da Vince since its opening. We have watched him grow, mature and learn social skills that will help navigate through life with his unique personality and learning style. He is meeting state benchmarks for his age and grade level. The director provides a challenging academic environment for her students. I have never encountered a traffic problem when dropping him off or picking him up. Indeed, I have been the only person in a car to be picking up a student.
105.	Robert Petty	Lompoc, CA	I fully concur with my wife's statement (Kathleen Petty).
106.	Jill Hartman	Alameda, CA	A good friend's son attends this school. He is a wonderful child whose needs were not served at his previous school (where we met him). I am an Alameda resident who believes this kind of education belongs in our community.
107.	Kacie Stratton	San Leandro, CA	
108.	Sabrina Cundiff	Alameda, CA	
109.	Nadine Alonzo	Fayetteville, NC	
110.	Jennifer Williams	Alameda, CA	
111.	Anna Johnson	Alameda, CA	We live in Alameda and are parents of neurotypical and neurodiverse children. While our children don't go to this school, I'm so grateful to be living in a community that supports and offers schools such as Da Vinci school. I believe parking and drop off can be easily accommodated with little to no impact to the neighborhood.
112.	Jack mesbahi	San Jose, CA	
113.	Marsha Johnson	Antioch, CA	My granddaughter is enrolled in the Da Vinci school for the fall. After much effort her mother finally found the right school to fit her personal needs and abilities, moving the family to be near the school. Please consider the careful concern given to minimizing impact to the neighborhood that is already in place and grant the permit.
114.	Darlene Ikeda	Alameda, CA	
115.	Rehana VN	Selcourt, South Africa	
116.	Jennie Bertone	Berkeley, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
117.	Mair MacKinnon	Alameda, CA	I am an Alameda resident and fully support anything that will enhance the education of all the children in this community. Alameda has always been the kind of place where people are proud to bring up their children. It's a shame that one person's objection could block the education of any child in our community. Please sign this petition and support such a worthwhile school.
118.	Bj Byrd	Danville, CA	
119.	Barbara Kenney	Alameda, CA	
120.	karen zimmerman	alameda, CA	
121.	Ellen Marshall	Alameda, CA	
122.	Laurie Chaikin	Alameda, CA	
123.	Michele Colgan	Alameda, CA	
124.	Margie Reed-winter	Woodland, CA	
125.	Merry Dempsey	Lafayette, CA	
126.	Rob Ahlers	Oakland, CA	
127.	Kelley Callahan	Albany, CA	I have a son with special education needs and it is so important that we have educational alternatives so that all kids can be successful in learning! It is providing a valuable service to our community.
128.	Deborah Spalla	Alameda, CA	
129.	Diane Foster	Alameda, CA	While I am a huge supporter and believer in the value of public education, I also know that it can be challenging for students with special needs, even with Special Education classes. Private education can challenge our public education system to continue to get better.
130.	Stephanie Simcox	Alameda, CA	
131.	Ruthann Cohn	Alameda, CA	
132.	cate calson	Alameda, CA	
133.	Susan Tambara	Alameda, CA	
134.	KC Hatcher	Oakland, CA	KC Hatcher

August 9, 2015



Zoning Administrator
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA, 94501
Phone 510-747-6850
Fax 510-865-4053

RE: application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at 508 Taylor Avenue.

Dear Zoning Administrator:

I completely support the above application. I am a neighbor of the proposed school site, and am on the public notice list.

I strongly feel that the proposed use (of a small school) is a good fit for our neighborhood. Because the number of families with children is on the rise here in Alameda, it is good to see efforts to enhance access to mixed uses locally. Particularly given the density of housing in this neighborhood (with many parcels of multi-family housing), bringing uses--such as a small school providing a niche for children who are not thriving in the public school at Paden--greatly improves the quality of life by reducing the need for residents to commute to such a school out of the neighborhood. It also enhances the diversity of the neighborhood in an enriching way--I've often seen this particular school group walking about the neighborhood on one of their many educational field trips. And that is an inspiring and comforting sight.

I have lived adjacent to Da Vinci school since it moved to 472 Taylor (its current location). My property abuts theirs. And I can say that there has never been any issues or problems--regarding noise, or traffic, or anything. Ever.

I know that a couple of very long-term neighbors of ours are opposed to this relocation of the school, and have been disproportionately vocal in their opposition. I feel that their attitude simply reflects an unrealistic desire to ignore the changing demographics and needs of Alameda. The concerns about the traffic impact from 25 children is frankly absurd when one looks at the traffic context in the immediate neighborhood (at just 5th St and Taylor, where I live): There are 350 children attending Paden Elementary, another 1000 attending Encinal High school, Academy of Alameda (dozens of which I see trekking up this very block of Taylor during rush hour--recognizable by their uniforms)...not to mention the new Island High school, NEA and the many day care centers and pre-schools. The traffic through this neighborhood, and down this particular block of Taylor Ave, is heavy during morning and evening rush-hour. Thus the traffic from the children of Da Vinci school is currently (and will

continue to be) an unnoticeable drop in the bucket. The concerns about the school's traffic impact are over-blown.

I am requesting that this letter be entered into the record as my public comment in support of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Francis McIlveen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Francis McIlveen
1417 5th St
Alameda, CA 94501
510-769-2996

August 10, 2015

Zoning Administrator
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA, 94501
Phone 510-747-6850
Fax 510-865-4053



RE: application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at
508 Taylor Avenue.

Dear Zoning Administrator:

I am writing to express my support for the above application.

As the number of families with children grows here in Alameda, it is good to see that there will be a variety of educational and day-care options in the neighborhood.

The addition of such a small school will be compatible with the neighborhood. There is already a variety of non-residential organizations, such as St. Barnabas Church on the corner of 6th and Taylor, as well as a day-care catty-cornered from the Church. However on the other end of Taylor (near 5th) there will just be the new location of the Da Vinci school, which is only 4 doors down from its current location.

I am happy to see the school taking an innovative approach to mitigate traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up.

I hope that you approve this conditional use permit.

Sincerely,

A. Pich

*535 Buena Vista Ave
Alameda CA 94501*

August 10, 2015

Zoning Administrator
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA, 94501
Phone 510-747-6850
Fax 510-865-4053



RE: application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at
508 Taylor Avenue.

Dear Zoning Administrator:

I am writing to express my support for the above application.

As the number of families with children grows here in Alameda, it is good to see that there will be a variety of educational and day-care options in the neighborhood.

The addition of such a small school will be compatible with the neighborhood. There is already a variety of non-residential organizations, such as St. Barnabas Church on the corner of 6th and Taylor, as well as a day-care catty-cornered from the Church. However on the other end of Taylor (near 5th) there will just be the new location of the Da Vinci school, which is only 4 doors down from its current location.

I am happy to see the school taking an innovative approach to mitigate traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up.

I hope that you approve this conditional use permit.

Sincerely,

Karen Bay
(510) 846-8236

1418 5th Street
Alameda, CA 94501

August 10, 2015

Zoning Administrator
Planning Division, City of Alameda, City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 190
Alameda, CA, 94501
Phone 510-747-6850
Fax 510-865-4053



RE: application PLN15-0323 for a conditional use permit for a school at 508 Taylor Avenue.

Dear Zoning Administrator:

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for the above application. I am a neighbor of the proposed school site, and received public notice of the application.

As the number of families with children grows here in Alameda, it is good to see efforts to enhance access to mixed uses in this neighborhood. Particularly given the density of housing in this neighborhood (with many parcels of multi-family housing), bringing uses--such as a small school providing a niche for children who are not thriving in the public school at Paden--greatly improves the quality of life by reducing the need for residents to commute to such a school out of the neighborhood. It also enhances the diversity of the neighborhood in an enriching way--I've often seen this particular school group walking about the neighborhood on one of their many educational field trips. And that is an inspiring and comforting sight.

I have lived adjacent to Da Vinci school since it moved to 472 Taylor (its current location). My property abuts theirs. And I can say that there has never been any issues or problems--regarding noise, or traffic, or anything. Ever.

I know that a couple of very long-term neighbors of ours are opposed to this relocation of the school. Personally, I feel that their attitude simply reflects an unrealistic desire to ignore the changing demographics and needs of Alameda. The concerns about the traffic impact from 25 children is frankly absurd when one looks at the traffic context in the immediate neighborhood (at just 5th St and Taylor, where I live): There are 350 children attending Paden Elementary, another 1000 attending Encinal High school, Academy of Alameda (dozens of which I see trekking up this very block of Taylor during rush hour--recognizable by their uniforms)...not to mention the new Island High school, NEA and the many day care centers and pre-schools. The traffic through this neighborhood, and down this particular block of Taylor Ave, is heavy during morning and evening rush-hour. Thus the traffic from the children of Da Vinci school is currently (and will continue to be) an unnoticeable drop in the bucket. The concerns about the school's traffic impact are over-blown.

I am requesting that this letter be entered into the record as my public comment in support of this application.

Sincerely,

Solvejg Rose
1417 5th St
Alameda, CA 94501
510-393-1875

To: Alameda City Planning Board

Re: PLN15-0323

We, the undersigned, as homeowners and residents on the 500 block of Taylor Ave., do vehemently object to the proposed Zoning Exemption for the DaVinci School. ***The signatures gathered represent nearly every home on our street.***

We appreciate Ms. Cook's passion and dedication to serving Alameda's children with learning challenges, and understand she has managed her neighborhood-oriented organization on the 400 block of Taylor Ave. with minimal disruption to neighbors.

However, we very strongly oppose the Zoning Exemption that would allow a school with up to 25 children on our block, regardless of internal drop-off / pick-up policies, etc.

The 500 block of Taylor Avenue is a narrow, one-way street consisting of 26 single-family homes, with 8+ having been split into 2- or 3-unit complexes. This adds up to a very dense strip of Taylor Ave. – perhaps 40 families. There are approximately 25 parking spaces to support the entirety of family cars, several spaces of which are taken by neighboring streets. As a result, double-parking and illegal-parking on the wrong side of the street is quite common and causes back-ups and delays.

Many families on the 500 block of Taylor Ave. have small children, ages 1 yr. – 6 yrs. old. The increased number of vehicles on the street will cause an exponential increase in traffic danger to our youth, an unacceptable byproduct of the care center.

Because of the density, lack of available parking and increased danger to our children on the 500 block of Taylor Avenue, a school with 15 – 25 children is absolutely unfeasible.

We wish Ms. Cook the best in her endeavors and are very sympathetic to providing children with special learning needs in our community, but the 500 block of Taylor Ave. is not a viable option.

Regards,

The Residents of the 500-block of Taylor Ave.

Name(s)	Address	Years on Taylor Ave	Own / Rent	Signature(s)
Michael Allen	545 Taylor Ave.	16	OWN	Michael Allen
Shenetta Allen	545 Taylor Ave.	10	OWN	Shenetta Allen
Jane Asst	542 Taylor Ave	14	OWN.	Jill Asst
Julie Stonehouse	541 Taylor Ave	24	OWN	Julie Stonehouse
Wm George	521 Taylor Ave	5 yrs	OWN	Wm George
Martha Sullivan	1436 5th St.	2 yrs	OWN	Martha Sullivan
his Cox	(Corner of Taylor & 5th) 526 Taylor Ave	20	OWN	his Cox
John Obarona	516 Taylor Ave	20	OWN	John Obarona
EVelyn ORRONS	514 Taylor Ave	40+	OWN	EVelyn ORRONS
Rebecca ORRONS	514 Taylor Ave	21	OWN	Rebecca ORRONS
Mary Levy	515 Taylor Avenue	21	OWN	Mary Levy
Theresa Zighera STEVEN LEVY	515 TAYLOR AVENUE	21	OWN	Theresa Zighera
Theresa Zighera	518 Taylor Avenue	6.5	OWN	Theresa Zighera
Eric Zighera	519 Taylor Ave	6.5	OWN	Eric Zighera
Indira Bouchard	519 Taylor Ave	14	OWN	Indira Bouchard
JAMES Bouchard	519 Taylor Ave	14	OWN	JAMES Bouchard
1105 Miller	527 Taylor Ave	45	RENT	1105 Miller
MILK MILLER	527 TAYLOR AVE	35	RENT	MILK MILLER
Eric Sullivan	517 Taylor Ave	6	OWN	Eric Sullivan
Alexandra Phillippe	517 Taylor Ave	6	OWN	Alexandra Phillippe
Mary Bonnell	517 Taylor Ave	5	RENT	Mary Bonnell
Lee Bonnell	540 Taylor Ave	8	OWN	Lee Bonnell
Rene Potesta	540 Taylor Ave	8	OWN	Rene Potesta
Crystal Meier	527 Taylor Ave	30	RENT	Crystal Meier
Tuan Bowman	527 Taylor Ave	13	RENT	Tuan Bowman