



HOW IS AUSTIN HANDLING THE INFLUX OF CHARTER SCHOOLS?

TexITE
September 23, 2016

Austin Transportation Department
& Development Services Department



Development CITY OF AUSTIN
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

What is a Charter School?



An open enrollment charter school is **a *privately owned public school***, and defined under the Texas Education Code

The City of Austin's own regulations exempted schools from development regulations

The Charter School “Loop-hole”

Public Educational facilities (primary or secondary) are “not required to comply with the following requirements of this title:”

- ❑ Impervious cover (except Barton Springs Zone)
- ❑ Cut or fill
- ❑ Landscaping
- ❑ Compatibility
- ❑ Subdivision
- ❑ Traffic Impact Analysis

Interlocal Agreements



- ❑ No TIA required
- ❑ Limits impervious cover to 50-60 percent
- ❑ Sets building height limits and setbacks
- ❑ Sets parking requirements

Charter School Challenges



- Two years from obtaining Charter from the State to classroom ready.
- No funding provided for facility construction
- Do not have the ability to issue bonds

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. The image shows several houses with varying roof colors (brown, grey, red), green lawns, and numerous trees. A road, identified by a green label as Stanley Ave., runs diagonally through the center of the image. To the left of Stanley Ave., there is a large, circular, unpaved area, possibly a construction site or a large driveway. The overall scene is a typical residential area with a mix of greenery and built structures.

Stanley Ave.



An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. A multi-lane road, Manchaca Rd., runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom left. The area is densely packed with houses, many of which have swimming pools in their backyards. Two properties are highlighted with yellow ovals: one is a large house with a light-colored roof and a white garage, and the other is a smaller house with a dark roof. The surrounding area is filled with trees and greenery.

Manchaca Rd.

Stanley Ave.







Sweeney Ln.

Burkes Adult
Supervised Living

Wheless Lane
Church of Christ

Cardtronics ATM

Austin Achieve
Public Schools

Dairy Queen
(5900 Manor Rd)

Sweeney Ln.





Sweeney Ln.







71
TEXAS

INTERSTATE
35

St. Elmo Rd.



Leads Tire Services

Center for
Protection

Woodland Hills
by Centex Homes

KIPP Austin Connections

Innovation Camps

Austin Discovery School

Bowie St



Google



Teri Rd.



The City's Path to Ordinance Changes

- ❑ October 2013 - Initiation attempted at Subcommittee, blocked by charter school lobby
- ❑ August 18, 2015 - Initiation successful at Subcommittee after neighborhood complaints
- ❑ August 25, 2015 - Full Planning Commission initiation
- ❑ April 17, 2016 – Council sets the public hearing for May 5, 2016

The City's Path to Ordinance Changes

- May 5 – Council postpones to June 9
- May 17 - Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee of the Planning Commission
- Stakeholder meeting
- May 24 – Full Planning Commission hearing
- Stakeholder meeting
- June 9 – City Council, 1st reading
- June 23 – City Council, 2nd & 3rd reading; ordinance adoption.

The City's Path to Ordinance Changes



The 'Compromise'

Neighborhood "Gives"

- Increased impervious cover in some watersheds
- No FAR limitations

The 'Compromise'

Charter School “gives”

- Fiscal postings required
- Neighborhood Traffic Analysis required
- Compatibility applies except for screening

The 'Compromise'

City “gives”

- Agreed to shortened review timeframes
- Site plan and building permit fees waived
- Exempt from Commercial Design Standards

Questions?

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