

# Don't rezone for school

A decision will be made on October 16 that may significantly impact the daily lives of many residents in south Lake Charles. The Lake Charles Charter Academy will be requesting a re-zoning of the property at the northeast corner of Ham Reid and Nelson roads so that a charter school may be located there.

This proposed charter school will not be a neighborhood school. None of the surrounding elementary or middle schools are classified as failing. Therefore, it is logical to presume that most students who are accepted will be driven in from outside the surrounding area.

Currently, the charter school doesn't provide buses for their students. Imagine what Nelson Road would look like in the mornings with almost 900 additional vehicles? Residents who live near or travel through the proposed school zone would experience tremendous difficulty commuting through that area which would have a reduced school zone speed limit.

It is plausible that many charter parents will become impatient with traffic congestion and would resort to dropping off and picking up their children in nearby subdivi-

sions. There are no sidewalks in this area. Those students would be walking alongside a busy highway or on private property creating substantial liability risks for homeowners.

With the significant increase in concrete and buildings, there will be a considerable increase in the likelihood of flooding in nearby residential areas as rainwater would be diverted directly into ditches instead of being absorbed. The ditch south of Crestview has already overflowed several times this past year.

I am not opposed to the charter school; I am opposed to the proposed location due to logistics that will without a doubt cause extreme hardship for many south Lake Charles residents. There are a multitude of other sites the school could be located where there would be much less disruption or infringement of traffic, drainage and personal property. It is my hope that policymakers will sympathize with established residents who simply want to protect our property investments and the current quality of our daily lives.

**Keith Leger**  
*Lake Charles*