

**From:** [David Amstutz](#)  
**To:** [Iraheta, Marleny](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:35:32 AM

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March 19, 2024

Hearing Examiner of the Metropolitan Development Commission  
c/o Marleny Iraheta, Senior Planner  
200 E. Washington Street, 2042  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road

Dear Ms. Iraheta:

I'm again reaching out to you in support of rezoning the church at 5136 N. Michigan Road for use by the Girls in STEM Academy. As a Washington Township resident and former high school chemistry teacher, I'm disappointed that Washington Township School is trying to deny deserving young women of color this life-changing educational opportunity.

STEM jobs are projected to grow by a percentage that's nearly double that of other jobs over the next decade. Because of the demand for these skills, those with STEM backgrounds earn on average about 66% more than those in non-STEM fields. Central Indiana has established itself as a hub for biosciences, with many employers that need workers who have STEM skills and experience. By cultivating the next generation of young women with a grounding in STEM, we're building a pipeline of homegrown talent to support our local economy.

I'm especially excited about the school's focus on serving students of color and those from low-income households, and it's encouraging that the school operator, Paramount Schools of Excellence, has a strong track record of success in this regard.

As a former educator, I'm deeply troubled by the number of students in our local schools who cannot demonstrate proficiency on the minimum standards ILEARN testing. The test results are particularly poor for our diverse students in Washington Township. How in the world do we expect these young people to lead productive and happy lives if they do not leave school with even the most basic skills?

Thanks for your efforts to ensure the future success of Girls in STEM Academy and those deserving young women who will attend.

Sincerely,

David Amstutz  
7603 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

**From:** [Marianne Glick](#)  
**To:** [Iraheta, Marleny](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:51:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [glicklogosignature\\_26d6a0dd-4dce-41c5-a189-2c284c4458d5.png](#)  
[Glick-Social-Icons-Facebook\\_d901b47f-48ba-4768-9182-d18e6a615b94.png](#)  
[Glick-Social-Icons-Instagram\\_29f7ef15-065b-45bf-91a6-ec073278fd75.png](#)  
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[Glick-Social-Icons-RSS\\_f3c8d874-1feb-409f-8494-c2738627518b.png](#)  
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[Glick-Social-Icons-Vimeo\\_30914d4c-4b56-4591-8b81-e4d1e0e45951.png](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization and contains an attachment. Unless you recognize the sender and know the contents are safe, do not open the attachment.

March 18, 2024

Hearing Examiner of the Metropolitan Development Commission  
c/o Marleny Iraheta, Senior Planner  
200 E. Washington Street, 2042  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road

Dear Ms. Iraheta:

I'm writing today in support of rezoning the church at 5136 N. Michigan Road to support the launch of the Girls IN STEM Academy, a high-quality public school that is free and open to all girls in grades K-8 (K-6 to start). Girls IN STEM Academy will offer a welcoming environment where girls of diverse backgrounds thrive as they feel safe, supported, and surrounded by peers and leaders who look like them.

Women and students of color are underrepresented in STEM. The Girls IN STEM Academy aims to address this by establishing a place for young women, especially women of color and those from low-income households, to find a sense of community as they engage in STEM learning. I'm excited that one of the state's top school operators, Paramount Schools of Excellence, will run the school in partnership with Girl Scouts of Central Indiana and Purdue Polytechnic High School.

As a community we need to do everything in our power to support the students in Washington Township. Right now Washington Township has the largest achievement gap in the state between its white students and its black/brown students. Paramount Schools is one of the best charter schools in our State and can make a huge difference for students who attend, regardless of their race or income level. I believe the Girls IN STEM Academy will not only be an asset to children, but to the Indianapolis community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Marianne Glick,  
Chairman of the Board,  
Eugene and Marilyn Glick Family Foundation

**MARIANNE GLICK**



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Monday, March 18, 2024

Hearing Examiner of the Metropolitan Development Commission  
c/o Marleny Iraheta, Senior Planner  
200 E. Washington Street, 2042  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road

Dear Ms. Iraheta:

I'm writing today in support of rezoning the church at 5136 North Michigan Road to support the launch of the Girls IN STEM Academy, a high-quality public school that is free and open to all girls in grades K-8 (K-6 to start). Girls IN STEM Academy will offer a welcoming environment where girls of diverse backgrounds thrive as they feel safe, supported, and surrounded by peers and leaders who look like them.

Women and students of color are underrepresented in the STEM fields. The Girls IN STEM Academy aims to address this by establishing a place for young women, especially women of color and those from low-income households, to find a sense of community as they engage in STEM learning. I'm excited that one of the state's top school operators, Paramount Schools of Excellence, will run the school in partnership with Girl Scouts of Central Indiana and Purdue Polytechnic High School.

Marian University believes in fostering a love for learning, especially in the STEM fields. We do this in a number of ways, including hosting healthcare and engineering summer camps for high school students. Last year, we launched the E.S. Witchger School of Engineering Center. This year, we're celebrating 10 years of our College of Osteopathic Medicine. All of these initiatives are in the pursuit of preparing transformative leaders for service to the world. I believe the Girls IN STEM Academy is a much-needed community partner that will not only be an asset to children, but also to the Indianapolis community.

Thank you for your consideration,



**Kenith Britt, Ph.D.**  
Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer  
Marian University



Mar 18, 2024

Hearing Examiner of the Metropolitan Development Commission  
c/o Marleny Iraheta, Senior Planner  
200 E. Washington Street, Suite 2042  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road

Ms. Iraheta:

My name is James Betley and I am the Executive Director of the Indiana Charter School Board ("ICSB"), a statewide authorizer of charter schools created by the Indiana General Assembly. It has come to my attention that certain remarks that I made last year in an interview with the news organization Chalkbeat have been taken out of context by MSD Washington Township in a zoning matter involving the Girls in STEM Academy and Paramount Schools of Excellence (2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road). While I understand that the Metropolitan Development Commission is primarily focused on the impact zoning petitions have on overall City planning considerations, I cannot let MSD Washington Township continue to misrepresent my statements.

MSD Washington Township has claimed, both in their presentation to the hearing examiner on February 26<sup>th</sup> and in subsequent emails, that my remarks are evidence that the ICSB believes that the City of Indianapolis is saturated with charter schools and therefore additional new charter schools are not needed in the city. This claim is inaccurate. Taken in context, my remarks were specifically addressing authorizing practices for charter school proposing to locate within *Indianapolis Public Schools* and not the City of Indianapolis as a whole. When I first learned of the misinterpretation, I reached out to Chalkbeat and asked that they print a clarification; however, while the author of the article admitted to me that they knew that I was specifically referring to IPS and not to Indianapolis, the organization's editors declined to update the article. Which brings me to this letter.

ICSB will continue to accept and review charter applications for schools proposing to locate within any school corporation within the Consolidated City, including Indianapolis Public Schools and MSD Washington Township, using many factors, including whether existing public schools are already providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students at the school's proposed location. To be clear, ICSB is not the authorizer of the Girls in STEM Academy and thus has no reason to be directly involved in this matter. However, as we have been drawn unwillingly into the debate, let me just say that academic data suggests there are areas within the City of Indianapolis, including in MSD Washington Township, with significant and persistent



educational attainment disparities among different groups of students who may be better served by additional high-quality public-school options.

For the record, I believe that Paramount Schools of Excellence and the Girls in STEM Academy would be an asset to the community and I support their zoning petition.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Betley', written in a cursive style.

James Betley  
Executive Director  
Indiana Charter School Board

**From:** [Anne Shane](#)  
**To:** [Iraheta, Marleny](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 North Michigan Road  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:20:14 AM

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Dear Ms. Iraheta:

I am writing to express my strong support for the rezoning of this property for a school use.

There seems to be some confusion about this as a charter authorization and not a land-use hearing. Paramount, the Girl Scouts and Purdue Polytechnic are unimpeachably competent at providing a rigorous education for low income students of color. Enough said.

I live in Washington Township and travel down Michigan Road on a frequent basis. I am sure that all the traffic and sanitation issues can be addressed. I would rather that this building be used as a great school for girls than see it sit vacant and attract crime and other undesirable activities. Have there been complaints from the neighbors of the three existing Paramount Schools of Excellence schools?

I am strongly in favor of the use of this property as a home for a high quality school that can only add to the long-term value and strength of this area.

Best regards,  
Anne Shane  
6355 N Oxbow Way, Indianapolis, IN 46220

**From:** [Taylour Treadwell](#)  
**To:** [Iraheta, Marleny](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:15:04 PM

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12 March 2024

Hearing Examiner of the Metropolitan Development Commission

c/o Marleny Iraheta, Senior Planner

200 E. Washington Street, 2042

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: 2023-ZON-109 at 5136 Michigan Road

Dear Ms. Iraheta:

I'm writing today in support of rezoning the church at 5136 N. Michigan Road to support the launch of the Girls IN STEM Academy, a high-quality public school that is free and open to all girls in grades K-8 (K-6 to start). Girls IN STEM Academy will offer a welcoming environment where girls of diverse backgrounds thrive as they feel safe, supported, and surrounded by peers and leaders who look like them.

Women and students of color are underrepresented in STEM. The Girls IN STEM Academy aims to address this by establishing a place for young women, especially women of color and those from low-income households, to find a sense of community as they engage in STEM learning. I'm excited that one of the state's top school operators, Paramount Schools of Excellence, will run the school in partnership with Girl Scouts of Central Indiana and Purdue Polytechnic High School.

Having experienced the empowering atmosphere of an all-girls school myself, I'm wholeheartedly behind rezoning the land into the Girls IN STEM Academy. As a minority in the STEM field, I understand the challenges and the incredible value of creating spaces where young girls, particularly those from underrepresented communities, can discover their potential and pursue their passions in STEM, feeling seen, supported, and inspired.



I believe the Girls IN STEM Academy will not only be an asset to children, but to the Indianapolis community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Taylour Treadwell