

April 1, 2021

Jennifer Driver
City of Pasadena
Planning & Community Development Department, Planning Division
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101-1704

RE: **Conditional Use Permit #6840 (ZENT2020-10036)**

Swift Real Estate Partners, as the managing agent for the Landlord, SFIII Lake, LLC is supportive of the application for Futures in Education, Inc for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for the operation of a private school within the CD-5 (Central District Specific Plan, subdistrict 5) zoning district and a Variance to permit no outdoor play area for the enrolled students, in lieu of the 4,500 square feet required.

As tenant in our building, Futures in Education, Inc. is currently in good standing. Their operations, which provides alternative teaching model is beneficial to the diversified workforce that are officing in the immediate vicinity. We do not anticipate any negative consequences for the building as a result of the entitlements granted by their application.

We support the approval of their application and thank you for your kind consideration on the matter.

Sincerely,



Bernard Chua
General Manager
Swift Real Estate Partners

Deirdre Morrison

Email: [REDACTED]

Planning & Community Development Department
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: CUP and Variance Case No. 6848

To whom it may concern,

I am so grateful to have found Futures Academy for my sixteen year old daughter. After a frustrating experience at a private high school where she endured the unsupportive and often punitive administration and uninspired teaching staff, she has gained more knowledge and confidence in her abilities this year than I could have imagined. She struggled with a processing disorder and an autoimmune condition that resulted in frequent school absences as we struggled to understand and treat her condition. She was always playing catch up, struggling to get help with what she had missed while simultaneously trying to move forward with the class. The lack of understanding, flexibility, and compassion affected her emotionally and academically.

When she started at Futures at the beginning of junior year she worried she would not be able to get into a good college and had lost faith in her own abilities. The flexibility of Futures one to one teaching style and the flexibility of the scheduling made it possible for her to master and move on without falling behind. From the start the administration and teachers were so encouraging, supportive and positive. They celebrated her accomplishments and bolstered her self esteem. They became partners in her success. She has achieved grades she didn't think she was capable of and as a result has become more independent, driven, and confident in her own abilities. She is actively working towards the college admissions process with hope and excitement. As a parent I am so relieved to see her reach her potential in a

supportive, compassionate and empowering environment.

I sincerely hope that Futures obtains its zoning approval so that my daughter's experience can be repeated for other Pasadena students who have no other local alternatives to achieve such broad behavioral and educational success.

Sincerely,

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 3/26/2021
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Deirdre Morrison



City of Pasadena
Planning Commission
175 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91109

Re: Support for Case No. 6848 – Futures Academy

Dear Chair Olivas and Distinguished Commissioners,

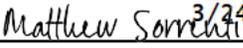
As an educational institution, Futures Academy possesses its own set of unique advantages and provides Pasadena area families with important opportunities. Pasadena families value independence, small class sizes, adaptable learning environments, and individualized education. These are all areas in which Futures Academy is distinguished. We are a fully tuition based institution with accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Our classroom standards are one-on-one instruction, currently virtually but historically in person. Because of our one-on-one model we are able to adapt lesson plans, teaching strategies, and assignments to the individual student's needs and interests, while at the same time maintaining high standards of rigor and clear academic goals. To my knowledge, we are the only accredited secondary school in the city of Pasadena which can offer such a singular and individualized learning experience.

In my professional experience, I have seen the power of one-on-one instruction, but I will omit the student's name. I worked with this young high schooler between 2018 and 2020 across multiple humanities courses. This student was extremely gifted (scored extremely high on multiple aptitude tests) but suffered from such severe social anxiety he was unable to attend traditional school. We frequently had to pause courses to allow them to adjust to the new environment. It was through consistent patience, developing a close relationship not just to the student but to the whole family, we were able to build up the student's confidence. Over time the student was able to attend classes regularly, enrolled in honors and other advanced courses, make up their past work and eventually complete high school. There are numerous other student stories like this, but I chose this case because it demonstrates the kind of transformative experience possible at Futures Academy.



Futures is operating in an excellent location without negatively impacting neighboring tenants, and the greater community benefits from students and their families who can seek such a unique education right in the middle of the City. Please approve Futures' request for its zoning entitlements.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
 3/24/2021
Matthew L Sorrenti
Teacher



Kristin Haines

Email: [REDACTED]

From: Kristin Haines
To: Jennifer Drive, Planner, Planning and Community Development
Date: March 9, 2021
Re: Support for Futures Academy CUP and Variance – Case No. 6848

My son attends Futures Academy at the Pasadena campus on Lake Ave where he is completing his 10th grade year. I would like to write this letter in support of the school and the value of having a campus centrally located in Pasadena.

Futures holds a unique place in Pasadena and serves a population of students who would otherwise find themselves failing in a traditional school or losing interest with a slower paced curriculum. The one on one approach puts the emphasis on building relationship first which allows teachers to build the trust needed to connect with the learners.

In our case, my son needed to withdraw from his private school due to unforeseen circumstances. When he was finally able to join Futures, he found that he caught up with his former classmates and then decided that this style of education fit him better than the former school setting. I feel like he is learning and growing at his own pace with the guidance and patience of his teachers. He didn't need all of the trappings of a traditional school and he felt successful. I have watched his confidence increase and we are very grateful that Futures was available to our family.

I wish to go on record in support of the zoning request and look forward to hearing that city staff supports the project and the Planning Commission approved it. There is no other option anywhere close to Pasadena that offers the alternative that my son and others in Pasadena need.

Sincerely yours,

DocuSigned by:
 3/26/2021
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Kristin Haines