

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Foothill Congregational School Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:13:30 PM

Dear Los Altos City Council,

If you have a moment to see for yourself, you'll be as surprised as I was at the idea of Foothill Congregational Church housing a school and after school care on their property. I have never personally been inside of any of the classrooms that are being proposed for usage by the school, but I know that the building sits directly at the public sidewalks I frequent. The space does not have safety fencing, no dedicated parking lot, no outdoor play area and no buffer for the dense neighborhoods surrounding. Many church's in our area that are renting to schools and daycares have the setbacks, parking, outdoor play areas and buffering from neighbors critical for the safety and well-being of the children and the community. Putting a school at FCC is a poorly conceived idea that unfairly burdens our public streets, sidewalks and already overused parks. Please check it out for yourself, there is simply not enough room!

Sincerely,
Chris and Robert Hon
Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: 461 Orange Ave
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:17:55 PM

We oppose the CUP submitted by the Los Altos Chinese School for occupancy at 461 Orange Ave. The addition of 75 students plus faculty/staff to the Foothills Congregational Church will negatively impact the already worsening traffic and congestion on University, Sherman and surrounding roads. Just because this project may not be happening in your backyard doesn't mean that it isn't adversely affecting the town of Los Altos as a whole.

Respectfully,

Marc and Bridget Allard
495 University Avenue

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Opposition to school use at FCC
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 11:18:57 AM

I am writing to express my opposition to the use of the Foothills Congregational Church as a school.

I am a former school board member, and have been deeply involved in site discussions over the years, so I appreciate how difficult this could be. There's a lot of NIMBYism in our community. However, my concerns extend well beyond simply proximity to my home on Orange Ave.

State law allows a "heritage school" to operate on a non-confirming site. The intent of that statute is to provide a bit of flexibility to these schools to operate in places that might not check all of the boxes for a public school. It is not meant to be a free-for-all, where schools operate with no safeguards whatsoever. The FCC site has far too many shortcomings to be a suitable school. Our neighborhood is already a "cut through" for people going from El Monte to Foothill, which sends busy motorists past the entrances of Shoup Park, Redwood Grove and yes, the Foothill Congregational Church. Adding the estimated 186 car trips per day to that existing traffic is begging for a problem. The issue is compounded because the FCC site lacks any sort of driveway or protected area for drop-off and pick-up. Drop-offs are bad enough, when parents may let their child out of the car a block away. Pickups are even worse. Once kids walk out the front door, they're standing right on the street. A child is going to get hit by a car, and that is 100% avoidable. I am aware that the school has made representations that they'll police this aggressively, and I believe they would do their best. However, having done this for LASD, I can tell you that it just isn't possible to be 100%. We've had a number of instances of kids getting hit by cars (including my own daughter), and those took place at sites that were already deemed to meet the higher state standard. This site lacks the essential elements needed to mitigate danger to these children.

This site also lacks any kind of playground space or outdoor space, which means these kids are going to end up using Lincoln Park as their recreation area- not exactly ideal, given that it borders Foothill Expressway. The site is also not fenced in any way. Once a child leaves a classroom (to go to the bathroom, etc.) they are unhindered in any way- they can just wander into the street.

I could go on at length, but I think the most important thing is that we aren't using the space we already have available. I would implore the school to work with LASD to lease space on LASD sites. This would reduce/eliminate the need to move these kids around, and could leverage facilities already approved to the higher standard for school use.

Regards,
Douglas J Smith
580 Orange Ave

Sent from my iPad