



August 26, 2020

City of Racine
ATTN: Planning Heritage & Design Commission
ATTN: Zoning Building Board

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Higher Expectations and the Kindergarten Readiness Network in Racine, I am writing to express support for Little Roots to establish a high-quality childcare center in the Midtown-Uptown neighborhood of Racine. I urge you to swiftly approve this application and allow Little Roots to open; doing so will provide the Racine community--and specifically, an under-resourced neighborhood--with 120 slots for full-time, high quality childcare, beginning at infancy. RUSD data shows children within their 4K year already have differentiated outcomes based on race.¹ It's critical that our community's Black, Latinx, and other populations of color have access to high-quality learning opportunities within their own neighborhoods that reflect their culture, and Little Roots will fill this need.

Young children's brains are producing 1 million new neural connections per second in the first few years of life, and we now understand the bigger picture of why we need to set families up for success from very early-on. Research has shown that investing in quality care and programming at this young age, specifically for our most disadvantaged children, leads to a 13% return on investment annually.² Access to affordable, high-quality childcare is not only critical for child development; it has two-generational impacts and improves the economic prospects of mothers, allowing them to enter the workforce and increase earnings.³ Little Roots has committed to accepting Wisconsin Shares, which will allow parents directly in the Midtown-Uptown neighborhoods to affordably access its high-quality programming.

Racine County has enough licensed childcare slots for only 1 out of 3 children under 5.⁴ Currently within the 53403 zip code, there are nine licensed group or licensed family childcare providers.⁵ Within YoungStar, Wisconsin's Childcare Quality Rating and Improvement System, only *two* of those nine childcare providers are 4- or 5-star.⁶

Little Roots' approach of supporting the whole family sets itself apart from other learning opportunities in our community. The early school's founding leader, Tasia White, brings an incredible education background, including school reform, high-quality instruction and leadership, and continuous improvement. The school's curriculum will be based on foundational literacy and will incorporate project-based learning, dramatic play, good questioning, and mindfulness--all approaches that help support whole child development and will contribute to positive school readiness outcomes.

We believe that approving Little Roots to open is the right thing for children and the right thing for our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Lynn Debilzen
Manager, Birth to 8 Initiatives
Phone: 920.629.1922
Email: lynn.debilzen@career2cradle.org

¹ Higher Expectations. *Kindergarten Readiness Dashboard*. <https://www.higherexpectationsracinecounty.org/kreadydash>

² The Heckman Equation. *There's more to gain by taking a comprehensive approach to early childhood development*. https://heckmanequation.org/www/assets/2017/01/F_Heckman_CBAOnePager_120516.pdf

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Wisconsin Partnership. *The state of early childhood care & education in Racine County & Wisconsin*. https://wisconsinpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/WP_Data_Sheet-HEX-11-19.pdf

⁵ *Licensed Child Care Directories, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families*. <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing/lcc-directories>

⁶ *Ibid.*

Law Offices of
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Robert A. Levine
Jonathan J. Cattey
Michael G. Levine*
*Also Licensed in Florida

Telephone (414) 271-9585
Facsimile (414) 271-8506

August 25, 2020

Via E-mail, only

Jeffrey Hintz
City of Racine
Department of City Development

Re: My Clients: Suren Siva, Gowri Surendran and
Bright Minds, LLC d/b/a Children's Academy, 1015 Washington Ave. Racine,
Wisconsin 53403

Dear Mr. Hintz:

I represent the above parties who are involved in the building and daycare center located at 1015 Washington Avenue Racine, Wisconsin. It is my understanding that an application has been made for a childcare facility to be located across the street from Bright Minds, LLC at 1020 Washington Avenue Racine, Wisconsin 53403.

As you and other members of the Planning, Heritage and Design Commission know, Ordinance Section 114-448 provides that no other group daycare facility should be located within 1000 feet of the main entrance of another group daycare facility and the subject location shall not be located closer than 250 feet to a signalized intersection or the intersection of major streets.

In reviewing the application for the new facility, it appears that the location is within 1000 feet of Bright Minds, LLC and is 220 or 230 feet from the intersection, both in violation of Ordinance Section 114-448.

In addition, as you all know, with the pandemic, my clients' facility, which has a 98-student capacity in which they have operated for approximately ten years, capacity has now been reduced due to Covid-19 to about 45 children.

Further, if a new facility across the street from Children's Academy is approved, it probably will result in a loss of children and teachers for my clients because the facilities will be competing for the same pool of individuals. There are already three daycare centers in the area authorized to receive approximately 250 children, one of which is on Washington Avenue about one minute away from Bright Minds, LLC with a 50 child capacity and another about five minutes away on 16th and Taylor with a capacity of about 100 children.

There are also safety and traffic concerns, in addition to violations of the ordinance.

The result of approving the new facility across the street from Bright Minds, LLC will probably put my clients out of business resulting in a vacant facility because of its location and limited use in an already blighted area.

I am by this letter hereby advising you that it is our position that a new daycare center should not be approved for the location of 1020 Washington Avenue for the above-stated reasons.

In addition, I would like to be heard at the meeting to address my clients' concerns. I spoke with Michelle Cook this morning, and she advised me that the virtual meeting will be held through WebEx. Please advise me how I can connect to the meeting through WebEx.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT A. LEVINE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Levine", written in a cursive style.

Robert A. Levine

RAL/jjc

cc: Suren Siva

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Telephone (414) 271-9585
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September 3, 2020

Via E-mail, only

Jeffrey Hintz
City of Racine
Department of City Development

Re: My Clients: Suren Siva, Gowri Surendran and
Bright Minds, LLC d/b/a Children's Academy, 1015 Washington Ave. Racine,
Wisconsin 53403

Dear Mr. Hintz:

Thank you for your quick response providing me with the name of the City Attorney and the witnesses who testified at the public hearing on August 26, 2020.

As I indicated in my comments, it appears that the conditional use permit to operate a group daycare center for children at 1020 Washington Avenue should be denied. The basis of the denial is Ordinance 114-448(a) and (d), "[t]he subject location shall not be located closer than 250 feet to a signalized intersection or the intersection of major streets," and "[n]o other group daycare facility should be located within 1000 feet of the main entrance of another group daycare facility."

The Ordinance is clear on its face and I believe the City Attorney, who I have not spoken with, will recommend the denial based upon this Ordinance and especially 114-448(a).

It further appears based upon a discussion at the hearing that entrances to the buildings are about 100 to 150 feet apart, rather than 1000 feet as set forth in the Ordinance.

In addition to Suren Siva, five people testified against the application including Indonesia Jones and Tameika Harris, who testified that the street is really busy and there is a need for more safety for the children in the area and is totally against another daycare center in this location.

Richard Spurlin testified that Washington is too congested and there have been a couple of shootings in the area and is also against another daycare center.

Samdhi Hamilton testified that the traffic is extremely busy and she is not in favor of another daycare center and there is too much violence in the area.

Another person testified, the name of which I do not know from the list that was provided to me, that she does not agree to a new business and lives right next door to the existing daycare center. She further testified that her son works third shift and does not want any more kids in the area due to the potential danger.

I am also enclosing a letter signed by 74 people, including the people who testified which was previously sent to you, who are opposed to another daycare center at 1020 Washington Avenue.


Based upon all of the evidence presented at the hearing, the opposition from 74 citizens, and specifically, the Ordinance which must take precedence over a waiver, it appears that the application for the daycare center located at 1020 Washington Avenue must be denied. If it is not denied, there is no reason to have ordinances nor input from members of the community, none of which testified in favor of a new daycare center directly across the street from an existing business.

I intend to attend the meeting on September 23, 2020 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT A. LEVINE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Levine", written in a cursive style.

Robert A. Levine

RAL/jjc

Encl.

cc: Suren Siva (via e-mail)
Scott Letteney, Esq. (via e-mail)

We don't want another Daycare in 1020 Washington Av.

There is already a Daycare in 1015 Washington Av, no need of another center across from this daycare. Don't permit to use the 1020 Washington Av. Building as a child care center.

- Already the traffic by the Washington AV by the existing child care center slows down the traffic. Parents tend to park the car on the Washington Av., although signs clearly states no parking. We see the DAY Care Vans and the parent's vehicles going back and forth from their driveway and it always blocks the traffic on the Washington Av. We don't want similar traffic congestions on the opposite site now (**1020 Washington AV**).
- Washington AV is a very busy street and not enough lanes for the passing vehicles, during traffic congestions. We from this neighborhood, use this part of Washington AV., multiple times in a daily basis, please don't make the commute more difficult with additional congestion on this part of Washington Av., by giving the permit to operate another center.
- Washington Av., is a concern for the child safety as well, Washington Av., being a very busy street, very high chances of kids running on to the Washington Av., when the children getting pickup/drop off times.
- Looks like the 1020 Washington Av., property has an adjacent land on the pearl street as well. If they make that lot a parking lot and another entry way to the center, will impact the traffic on Pearl Street. We see this issue in Hilker place with the children's Academy parking lot
- Also, during the summer time the kids in the playground especially the big kids are loud and one of the neighbor has complained to the children's Academy center about this as well. We don't need more noise, we want peace and quiet.
- We are glad to see the 1020 Washington Av., building getting renovated, the neighborhood needs other business and services not another child care center aright across from another existing center.

We hope the City will take our concerns seriously. Attached herewith are the names and Address of the people who are opposing a new Child care center at 1020 Washington Av.

Thank You!

Neighbors around the child care center

Name	Address	Signature
Jose Romero	1027 Washington AV.	Jose Romero
Diana Martinez	1027 Washington	He [Signature]

Name	Address	Signature
Hubert Bell	1009 9 th street	Hubert Bell
Tydelle T	911 Racine St	Tydelle
M... ..	1030 Racine St	
Nike Fordet	1022 Hilke Pl	
M... ..	1033 Hilke Pl	
Esther de Ruth	1031 Hilke Pl	
Dan White	1121 Hilke Pl	
Milton Taylor	" "	Walter Ford
Keoné Sims	" "	
Matt Forder	129 Ohio St	Matt Forder
Aurora Rivas	917 9th St	Aurora Rivas
Nanika Keenan	1219 Jones Ave	BaShulkeun
Alayah	1017 Delamare Ave	Alayah Davis
Amadhi Hamilton	512 14th St.	Amadhi Hamilton
Ernesa Barry	158 MLK DR.	Ernesa Barry
Jasmine Winton	1823 Roe Av	Jasmine Winton
Sylvia Harris	1836 Grand Ave	Sylvia Harris
Naria Martinez	918 Elm st	

Name	Address	Signature
Tinos Carrant	1100 WEST AVE	[Signature]
Nicole Davis	1120 Lockwood Ave	[Signature]
RICARDO BOLAND	1421 -10 ST	[Signature]
Aurice Brown	1802 Grand Ave Apt 101	[Signature]
Ela Cruz	1018 Hilker Place	[Signature]
Maria Ruiz	905 Villa St	[Signature]
Josefina Toscan	1006 Pearl St	Josefina Toscano
Blanca Animas	1124 12th St.	Blanca Animas
MANUEL CRUZ	914 ELM ST.	[Signature]
Thania Cruz	4801 Douglas Ave	[Signature]
Araceli Vazquez	1430-Carlisle Ave	Araceli Vazquez
ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ	1664 WISCONSIN ST	Alejandra Rodriguez
MICHAEL MONAG	1601 26th	[Signature]
Miguel Rivera	2019 STANSON AVE.	[Signature]
Elizabeth Ramirez	245 Harrison St	Elizabeth Ramirez
Ana M. Arroyo	2019 Stanson ave	Ana M. Arroyo
Maricela Gonzalez	1014 10th Racine WI 53403	Maricela Gonzalez
Maria G. Gonzalez	1014 10th Racine WI 53403	Maria G. Gonzalez

We don't want another Daycare in 1020 Washington Av.

There is already a Daycare in 1015 Washington Av, no need of another center across from this daycare. Don't permit to use the 1020 Washington Av. Building as a child care center.

- Already the traffic by the Washington AV by the existing child care center slows down the traffic. Parents tend to park the car on the Washington Av., although signs clearly states no parking. We see the DAY Care Vans and the parent's vehicles going back and forth from their driveway and it always blocks the traffic on the Washington Av. We don't want similar traffic congestions on the opposite site now (**1020 Washington AV**).
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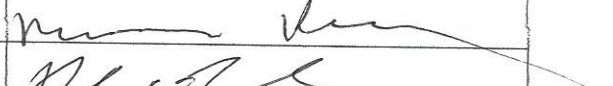

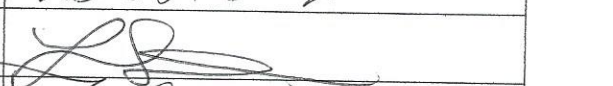


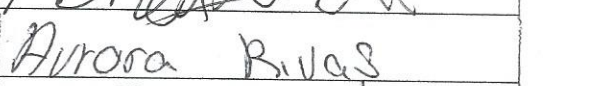
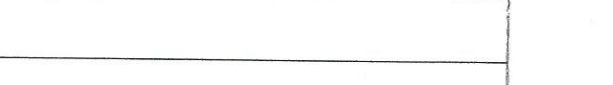
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Thank You!

Neighbors around the child care center


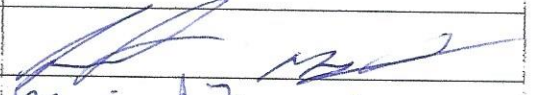
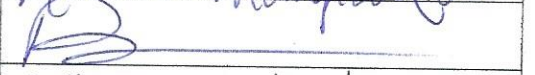



Name	Address	Signature
José Romero	1027 Washington Av.	José Romero
Diana María	1027 Washington	He M L

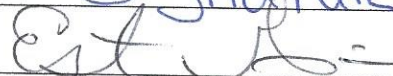
Name	Address	Signatures
Indonesia Jones	2049 Douglas Ave	Indonesia Jones
Drakara Bibbs	5600 castle ct	Drakara Bibbs
Robin Suhajda	11703 60th St.	Robin Suhajda
Angel Licht	1823-32nd St	Angel Licht
Michael Lewis	1823 32nd St	Michael Lewis
Jai Meer L'Minggo	7829 16th Ave	Jai Meer L'Minggo
Bonnie Lee	3325 Newman Rd	Bonnie Lee
Candace Dorsey	3829 Nbay DR	Candace Dorsey
TOQUINTA JONES	1754 Byron Rd	Toquinta Jones
WESLEY HUNTER		Wesley Hunter

Name	Address	Signature
Hubert Bell	1009 9 th street	Hubert Bell
Tydelle T	911 Racine St	Tydelle
Muriel Harris	1036 Racine St	
Mike Fordet	1022 Hilkeep l	
Marian M	1023 Hilkeep l	
Lashun de Beth	1031 Hilker pl	
Dan White	1121 Hilker pl	
Milton Taylor	" "	Milton Taylor
Keoné Sims	" "	
Mantel Fonder	129 Ohio st	Mantel Fonder
Aurora Rivas	917 9th st	Aurora Rivas
Shanika Keenan	1219 Jones Ave	Shanika Keenan
alayah	1017 Delamere Ave	alayah Dawo
Samadhi Hamilton	512 14th st.	Samadhi Hamilton
Vernesa Barry	158 MLK DR.	Vernesa Barry
Jasmine Winton	1823 Roe Av	Jasmine Winton
Sylvia Harris	1836 Grand Ave	Sylvia Harris
Maria Martinez	918 Elm st	

Name	Address	Signature
Tomas Carrant	1100 WASH AVE	Tomas Carrant
Nicole Davis	1120 Lockwood Ave	Nicole Davis
RICARDO BOLANO	1421 -10 ST	Ricardo Bolano
Laurice Brown	1802 Grange Ave Apt 101	Laurice Brown
Pela Cruz	1018 Hilker Place	Pela Cruz
Maria Ruiz	905 Villa St.	Maria Ruiz
Josefina Toscano	1006 Pearl St	Josefina Toscano
Blanca Animas	1124 12th St.	Blanca Animas
MANUEL CRUZ	914 ELM ST.	Manuel Cruz
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ALEJANDRA RODRIGUEZ	1664 WISCONSIN ST	Alejandra Rodriguez
LICARDO MONTE	1601 18th St	Licardo Monte
Miguel Rivera	2019 Stinson Ave.	Miguel Rivera
Elizabeth Ramirez	245 Harrison St	Elizabeth Ramirez
Ana M. Arroyo	2019 Stinson ave	Ana M. Arroyo
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Maria G. Gonzalez	1014 10th Racine WI 53403	Maria G. Gonzalez

Jackie Wilkens	2013 1/2 Phillips Ave.	Jackie Wilkens
R. Spurlin	2021 Phillips Ave	R. Spurlin
Dob Dolozynski	2342 Meachen St	Dob Dolozynski
Mal Miller	2300 VICTORIA DRIVE	Mal Miller
James Beaton	2300 VICTORIA DR.	James Beaton
Doug TABBERT	1218 Cleveland	Doug TABBERT
Tom Bauer	537 Wood Rd	Tom Bauer
Mal Miller	2704 James Blvd	Mal Miller
Maxie Vaggus	2009 Phillips Ave	Maxie Vaggus
Sammy B.	2021 Dodman	Sammy B.
Al Brown	2643 Eyegary	Al Brown
Ernst Colu	1940 E Blvd	Ernst Colu
Steven Crellano	1018 Hiker Pl	Steven Crellano

Name	Address	Signature
Dana Kozeluh	2063 Douglas Ave	
M. M.	2063 Douglas Ave ^{UP}	
Lemontre manborn	1419 West St	
Nicole Maryland	2044 Douglas Ave.	Nicole Maryland
Devante Quay	413 parkview Dr.	
Mary Williams	1410 West St	Mary Williams
 M. Spratt	1631 Douglas Ave	
Joe Carlson	2014 Douglas Ave	

Name	Address	Signature
ESTEVAN GARCIA	3035 HAMICTON AVE	
Gabriel Gonzalez	1707 1/2 Durand ave	Gabriel Gonzalez
Tania Hondo	1222 11th street	Tania Hondo
Patricia Wright	1224 11th st	Patricia Wright

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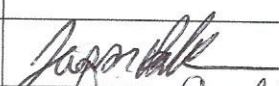
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Thank You!

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Pete Bahen	2013 1/2 PHILLIPS AVE	