Zoning Docket from January 11, 2016 Public Hearing

Docket Number	Applicant	CC DIST.	STAFF REC.	GCPC REC.	P&D REC.	COUNCIL ACTION
CZ-2016-09	Bryon D. Culbertson for Jennifer L. Brooks 555 S. Old Piedmont Highway WG10010300101 and WG10010300200 I-1, Industrial to S-1, Services	25	Denial	Denial 1/27/16	Denial 2/1/16	
Public Comments	Some of the general comments made by Speakers at the Public Hearing on January 11, 2016 were: Speakers For: 1) Jennifer Brooks - Owner • Kindergarten through 5 th grade • 90 students will be served initially • Expecting to expand to 200 students • \$½ million renovation budget 2) Resident • 50 full time employees at this school • Would come into compliance with DOT standards • Value to redeveloping an already existing school building 3) Resident • Free to children with autism • First school like this in the area and in the southeast region • Supports what this applicant is trying to do Speakers Against: 1) None List of meetings with staff:					Petition/Letter For: None Against: None
Staff Report	The subject parcels are about 10.2 acres of property located on S. Old Piedmont Highway approximately 0.2 miles from Piedmont Highway and the I-85 onramp. The parcels have approximately 660 feet of frontage along S. Old Piedmont Highway. Active railways are in close proximity to the western and eastern boundaries. The applicant states the proposed land use is for a Public Charter School for K-5 Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. It is staff's opinion that this requested rezoning would have significant impact on the surrounding area. The proposed use as a school is inconsistent with existing, established industrial uses and surrounding zoning, and may present a potential safety risk. The stated proposed use of the site would utilize the proposed zoning in order to request a special exception for a school, an exception excluded from industrial zoning classification for reasons of incompatibility. The close proximity to rail lines and potentially hazardous industrial uses makes this proposal incompatible with existing adjacent uses.					
	Infrastructure in this area, the current extent of industrial zoning, and proximity to major roadways are better situated to serve new and expanding industrial businesses.					

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Based on these reasons, staff recommends denial of the requested S-1, Services zoning.