

Planning and Zoning Board and City Commission Public Hearing Comments

Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School - Change in Land Use, Conditional Use and Site Plan Review Applications -
624 Anastasia Avenue (University Baptist Church), Coral Gables, Florida

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
449.	04 13 11	Lyssett Montiel-Lleonart 6275 SW 34 Street, Miami, FL 33155 Lyssett.montiel@gmail.com		X		Ladies and Gentlemen: As we know, there is always room for improvement in education... and, in this case, the 'room' (space) should be given to Somerset Gables, at the UBC location. As a concerned parent who knows the importance of providing the best environment for the highest academic endeavors and achievement, I believe that Somerset Gables is the best school to occupy that location, and I feel strongly that the community (the children, parents, residents) will all benefit greatly from the decision to allow the school to move forward and grow in the manner they've requested. We would greatly appreciate your consideration, support, and assistance in this regard. Sincerely, Lyssett Montiel-Lleonart 6275 SW 34 Street, Miami, FL 33155
450.	04 13 11	Jenny Esquijarosa 3416 SW 17 ST Miami, FI 33145 jesquijarosa@eventuslive.com				"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location." Jenny Esquijarosa 3416 SW 17 ST Miami, FI 33145
451.	04 13 11	Belkis Carames-Mitchell 4542 SW 144 Avenue Miami, FL 33175 Bayviewloanservicing.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Belkis Carames-Mitchell 4542 SW 144 Avenue Miami, FL 33175
452.	04 13 11	Isabel Scharn 1114 Columbus Blvd Coral Gables, FL Isabel.scharn.ic.fbi.gov		X		I, Isabel Scharn, residing at 1114 Columbus Blvd, Coral Gables, support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.
453.	04 13 11	Alexandra Corzo-Raton 2410 Madrid Street Coral Gables, FL 33134 sandy@alistevents.net		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Alexandra Corzo-Raton 2410 Madrid Street Coral Gables, Florida 33134
454.	04 13 11	Maite Lierandi 20121 SW 79 Ave. Cutler Bay, FL 33189 mbllerandi@aol.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Address: 20121 SW 79 Ave., Cutler Bay, FL 33189 e-mail:mbllerandi@aol.com
455.	04 13 11	Kristin Nicole Quintas		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.

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		350 S Miami Ave #710 Miami, FL 33130 Kiki1220@gmail.com				-- Kristin Nicole Quintas 350 S Miami Ave #710 Miami, FL 33130
456.	04 13 11	Douglas Scott 4102 Alhambra Circle Coral Gables, FL 33134 miamilight@gmail.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Best, Douglas Scott 4102 Alhambra Circle Coral Gables, FL 33134
457.	04 13 11	Clarisa Stollenwerck 323 Malaga Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 Clarisa27@aol.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Clarisa Stollenwerck 323 Malaga Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134
458.	04 13 11	Zelena Rivera 411 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables zelenar@gmail.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Regards, Zelena Rivera 411 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables
459.	04 13 11	mmoore@arangomoorelaw.com		X		I support Somers Gables.
460.	04 13 11	Catheryn Celaya Kccelaya1982@mac.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location Thank you, Catheryn Celaya
461.	04 13 11	Lisette Garcia Lg776@bellsouth.net		X		I am writing in SUPPORT of the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. I am a parent of a five year old in prek 4 and I know first hand the difficulty behind finding a good school for your child. Unfortunately public schools are extremely difficult to get into considering that the good ones are all selecting students based on lotteries. I believe that the City of Coral Gables can greatly benefit from a school like Somerset. Thanks Lisette Delgado
462.	04 13 11	Cindy Pavicic 541 Anastasia Ave Apt #2 Coral Gables, FL 33134 cindyp@marecruit.com		X		Good Morning! I would like to show my support in the expansion of Somerset Gables at UBC location. Kindest regards, Cindy 541 Anastasia Ave Apt #2 Coral Gables, FL 33134
463.	04 13 11	Cristina Lucientes Cristina.lucientes@intelsat.		X		As a Coral Gables resident, I support the expansion of the Somerset Gables UBC Campus – we need more options for our children in Coral Gables. I have friends who have been

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		com				<p>lucky enough to get their children into Somerset S. Miami and they are very pleased with the school.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cristina Lucientes</p>
464.	04 13 11	Vivian and Roger Torres 1560 Trevino Ave Coral Gables, FL torresviv@hotmail.com		X		<p>We support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Our city is in need of a good choice of school like this one.</p> <p>This is about the future of Coral Gables and the future of our children.</p> <p>Please HELP Somerset Gables.</p> <p>Thanks, Vivian and Roger Torres 1560 Trevino Ave Coral Gables.</p>
465.	04 13 11	Kiran Epuri 10248 NW 57 St Doral, FL 33178 kepuri@yahoo.com		X		<p>To whomever it is concerned,</p> <p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location</p> <p>Regards Kiran Epuri 10248 NW 57 St Doral, FL 33178</p>
466.	04 13 11	Loretta Marcucci loremarcucci@gmail.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location</p> <p>Loretta Marcucci</p>
467.	04 13 11	Annie Lopez 3417 SW 15th Street Miami, FL 33145 anniec@marecruit.com		X		<p>Good Morning!</p> <p>I would like to show my support in the expansion of Somerset Gables at UBC location.</p> <p>Kindest regards, Annie Lopez 3417 SW 15th Street Miami, FL 33145</p>
468.	04 13 11	Pete Quintas Ace Home Decor petequintas@yahoo.com		X		<p>Good morning both of my grandsons attend Somerset Academy Gables. I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at UBC location. Good education for the future children who will be the future of our country is the best investment made during our difficult times our country economics times is going through.</p> <p>Sincerely, Pete Quintas Ace Home Decor Cell:786-543-6374</p>

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469.	04 13 11	Maritza Duenas Maritza_duenas@msn.com		X		From: maritza_duenas@msn.com To: wfoeman@coralgables.com; jmendez@coralgables.com Subject: Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2011 06:37:48 -0700 I support the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables at the UBC location.
470.	04 13 11	Lorena Vicente Adult Life & Student Ministry Assistant UBC Miami lorena.vicente@ubcmiami.org		X		I STRONGLY support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Thank you, Lorena Vicente Adult Life & Student Ministry Assistant UBC Miami • 305-448-4425 xt. 248 lorena.vicente@ubcmiami.org http://www.ubcmiami.org
471.	04 13 11	Scott & Jen Berger 3413 Monegro St Coral Gables, FL 33134		X		Dear Public Representatives, We are a family living in Coral Gables and our son attends Somerset Gables. We have another son that we hope can also attend when the expansion is approved. I am also a business owner and support business coming to the Gables, however with only limited Public School options, and very expensive Private Schools, how can this city grow and prosper further? Is the opinion by the opposition that traffic will increase? Riviera is in a neighborhood and has traffic, this is the case with all Schools, please be aware the the true positives of this school expansion, far outweigh the negatives. Scott & Jen Berger 3413 Monegro St Coral Gables, FL 33134
472.	04 13 11	Javier Salazar 930 Paradiso Ave Coral Gables, FL 33146 JSalazar@venlogis.com		X		To whom it may concern: As a Gables resident and tax payer, I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Regards, Javier Salazar 930 Paradiso Ave Coral Gables, FL 33146 Email: JSalazar@venlogis.com
473.	04 13 11	Gail Doherty 20740 SW 89th Path Miami, FL 33189 carluvergirl@yahoo.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Gail Doherty 20740 SW 89th Path Miami, FL 33189 Ph. 786-573-0463

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474.	04 13 11	Gina de la Rosa ginadelarosa@gmail.com		X		<p>carluvergirl@yahoo.com</p> <p>Greetings!</p> <p>I am currently a Coral Gables resident, a parent, and an active participant of all activities throughout the community. I have a 6 and 4 year old. My 6 year old is currently attending Somerset Gables.</p> <p>I would like to briefly share my personal experience regarding the hardships and process of school admissions with my son last year. I would also like to express my admiration and gratitude for Somerset Gables, and how clearly there is a need to expand the school.</p> <p>Last year, my son who at the time was 5 years old, was ready to go into Kindergarten. One of the elements my husband and I knew about living in Coral Gables, was that we would find great schools. After touring all the schools we were interested in, we applied to 3 private schools. We also applied to Coral Gables Elementary which for our family, was our neighborhood school. In February/March we learned that the private schools we had applied to, our son was placed on the waiting list. In April, which is when Coral Gables was accepting applications, we learned approximately in June that our son did not get into Coral Gables Elementary. At that point in time, I entered into panic mode because I had no idea if there was a school out there for my son and family.</p> <p>When I learned about Somerset Gables, I thought, wow what a fabulous school. What possibilities would I have that my son would be admitted. Fortunately, after going through some trials and tribulations Somerset was able to open and we were one of the lucky few to be admitted. I am so grateful that we had this opportunity. Finally, I was able to show my son where his school and community is.</p> <p>Somerset Gables has not only been a rewarding experience for my son, but for our family as well. We have huge admiration of our principal Mrs. Suzette Ruiz and the administration for having the ability to have a school running in 2 weeks! Our families understand what it is to have a community with harmony and we as citizens take pride in that. The school has been active throughout the community from donating toys to the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation, Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market, events for our senior citizens at UBC, and many other fun events.</p> <p>Moreover, I would like to have this same joyous experience for my younger son who will be up for kindergarten beginning next year. I now find myself facing the same situation I was in last year. I am not alone in this situation. There are numerous of families who have been, and currently are in the same position that I have been. It is clear that there is a need specially with the number of applicants who are anxiously waiting to hear if they are one of the lucky ones to be admitted in.</p> <p>We as citizens understand there is a process and are willing to work towards a positive outcome for our neighbors, families, and citizens.</p>

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						Best Regards, Gina de la Rosa
475.	04 13 11	Charles Steinhardt 831 Pizarro Street Coral Gables, FL 33134 css@zentechhelp.com		X		Hi My names is Charles Steinhardt and have been a resident of Coral Gables for 30 years and went to all Coral Gables public schools from elementary through high school. Attached is a photo of my beautiful daughter who loves Somerset Gables Academy and is typical of the wonderfully behaved children that attend that school. Please help support us. I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Charles Steinhardt 831 Pizarro Street Coral Gables, FL 33134
476.	04 13 11	Nicole Freixas nmfreixas@gmail.com		X		Hello, I am a resident of Coral Gables and have lived in this area for 37 years. I understand the concerns of all the residents in our community. None the less I strongly support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location in order to provide all of our children with the best education options possible. Sincerely, Nicole Freixas nmfreixas@gmail.com
477.	04 13 11	Maritza Cuebas 8335 SW 44 Street Miami Florida 33135 mcuebas@bacardi.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. This will give more opportunities to the parents to have affordable education. Maritza Cuebas 8335 SW 44 Street Miami Florida 33135
478.	04 13 11	Elizabeth Valdes (305) 297-9050 evaldes1018@gmail.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Thank you, Elizabeth Valdes evaldes1018@gmail.com
479.	04 13 11	Jaclyn Quintas Jackie401@hotmail.com		X		Good morning, I am writing this e-mail in support of the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. I believe that this school is an asset to the community and one that many parents, residents & neighbors are in favor of.

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						kindest regards, Jaclyn Quintas
480.	04 13 11	Jessica Irizarry Jessica.irizarry@gmail.com		X		We need more good schools for our kids! Jessica Irizarry
481.	04 13 11	Melissa Krinzman mkrinzman@venturearchitects.com		X		I believe that Somerset Gables is an important part of maintaining a vibrant Gables community. Melissa Krinzman
482.	04 13 11	Christine Lopez 10430 sw 54 st Miami, FL 33165 christinelopez@hotmail.com		X		To whom it may concern; "I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Thank you, Christine Lopez 10430 sw 54 st Miami, FL 33165 305-804-4443
483.	04 13 11	Catalina Perez cat@inkberries.com		X		Thank you for for reviewing the following letter, As a parent with a child currently at a Somerset school, I cannot stress how beneficial {academically strong} these schools are as well as very nurturing to our kids. Any neighbourhood with a Somerset Academy in it is blessed. I am sure that there can be a compromise between the City of Coral Gables, Somerset and the neighbours surrounding the school that would work harmoniously for all involved and for benefit of our children. Thank you for considering the expansion of number of students at Somerset Gables, With much appreciation, Catalina Perez
484.	04 13 11	Xavier Gonzalez 5260 SW 6th Street Coral Gables, FL 33134 Xeq1332@aol.com		X		As the parent of a young child living near the Somerset Gables location, I am very much in support of the expansion of the school. I hope that someday in the near future my one-year-old son, Lucas, will have the opportunity to attend this wonderful school with many other children in our community. Regards, Xavier Gonzalez 5260 SW 6th Street Coral Gables, FL 33134
485.	04 13 11	Kimberly Flores kflores@hfflp.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Thank you, Kimberly Flores

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						Coral Gables Resident & Proud Parent of School Aged Children
486.	04 13 11	Renata Bell/Jonathan Bell 1713 Cortez Street CG, 33134 renatabene@aol.com		X		Dear City of Coral Gables - My family would like, through this letter, to say that we support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. We are new in the neighborhood and have two kids and are very aware of the acute need for additional sources of excellent education. As it is, the space is available and unused and it is a shame to not utilize every opportunity to allow our kids to have access to the type of education that Somerset offers. Sincerely, Renata Bell/Jonathan Bell 1713 Cortez Street CG, 33134
487.	04 13 11	Victor Leon 3232 Coral Way, # 1810 Miami, FL 33145 Victor.leon@fox.com		X		Dear Members of the City of Coral Gables, "I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location." Thanks, Victor Leon 3232 Coral Way, # 1810 Miami, FL 33145
488.	04 13 11	Martha Castillo mecastillo@dadeschools.net		X		"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location." Martha Castillo Kindergarten Teacher Somerset Gables
489.	04 13 11	Stuart P. Kirby and Maria Kirby 1110 Madrid Street Coral Gables FL 33134 medinakirby@yahoo.com		X		To Whom It May Concern; As a new resident to Coral Gables of nearly 4 years now, one of the deciding factors my family and I made when choosing to live in Coral Gables over other communities such as Coconut Grove or Weston to name but a few, was the decent level of public education that was afforded its residents. Realizing that the present public education offering in Coral Gables has far exceeded the present capacity, I have great concern over my children, and for that matter, any child receiving a quality education within a system that seems overcrowded. The expansion of Somerset Academy would be most welcomed by parents in Coral Gables such as my wife and I, who strongly believe that the advent of a charter school within the Coral Gables community would only enhance the existing educational opportunities for our youth, while simultaneously driving down the over-burdened and over-taxed present educational framework for delivering a quality learning experience.

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						<p>Moreover, the challenges that many residents have based their decisions upon - against allowing Somerset to expand Somerset Gables - are either unfounded or altogether avoidable through smart civic planning and orchestration. While I welcome a debate on the issues so everyone's voice can be heard, I think it important to consider the overarching positive benefits associated with allowing Somerset to establish a quality educational offering in Coral Gables and realizing that those benefits far outweigh the negatives. If there is an opportunity for my wife and I to more fully express our support in favor of extending the capacity of a Somerset charter school in Coral Gables, don't hesitate to contact myself or my wife.</p> <p>Best, Stuart P. Kirby and Maria Kirby 1110 Madrid Street Coral Gables FL 33134</p>
490.	04 13 11	Maria Trontz 808 Brickell Key Drive, Unit 1205 Miami, FL 33131 raltormpb@aol.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Maria Trontz 808 Brickell Key Drive, Unit 1205 Miami, FL 33131</p>
491.	04 13 11	Michelle Vires 240 Sarto Ave Coral Gables, FL 33134 Viresm24@hotmail.com		X		<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a resident of Coral Gables in support of the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Currently, my family is in a predicament because we have been zoned out of the the Sunset/Coral Gables Elementary/Carter district. Instead, my son is supposed to go to Frances Tucker Elementary, which is absolutely unacceptable! Instead, I drive all the way to Kendall, by the JCC, to take my son to a charter school there! Many of the young families in my neighborhood are in the same situation, so they send their children to schools in other communities (private or charter) because we need more quality schools here!</p> <p>If I were able to put my son in Somerset Gables, I could walk my son to school and utilize the programs at the Youth Center, thereby making Coral Gables a community for my family. Currently, I spend more time elsewhere, and wonder why I even live here anymore.</p> <p>Thank you, Michelle Vires 240 Sarto Ave Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
492.	04 13 11	Jose Sosa and Marisa Arrechea 55 Merrick Way Apt 740 Coral Gables, FL 33134 tony@sosascope.com		X		<p>"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."</p> <p>Jose Sosa 55 Merrick Way Apt 740 Coral Gables, FL 33134 Marisa Arrechea 55 Merrick Way Apt 740 Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
493.	04 13 11	Farrah Marin-Serralta fmarinserralta@ymail.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Charter School in Coral Gables.</p>

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						Farrah Marin-Serralta
494.	04 13 11	Carolina Suarez csuarez@terremark.com		X		All, This email is in support of the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Thank you, Carolina E. Suarez
495.	04 13 11	Marita Lazarusml222@yahoo.com		X		I support the expansion of sommerset gables academy
496.	04 13 11	Francisco Sibauste 4739 San Amaro Drive fcsibauste@yahoo.com		X		Dear City of Coral Gables Authorities, My name is Francisco Sibauste and I have lived at 4739 San Amaro Drive for over 10+ years. I want to express my support for Somerst Gables at the UBC location! Appreciating your consideration, Francisco Sibauste "I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."
497.	04 13 11	Fila Martinez 918 Sorolla Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 filamartinez@yahoo.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Fila Martinez 918 Sorolla Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134
498.	04 13 11	Javier F. Aviñó 740 Navarre Avenue Coral Gables, Florida 33134 avinoj@gtlaw.com		X		Dear Honorable Members of the City Commission and Planning Board: I write in support of Somerset Gables Charter School located at the University Baptist Church Property at 624 Anastasia Avenue. As a homeowner in the City Beautiful, it is of utmost importance to me and my family that the City strive for excellence in the services and amenities provided to its residents. To that end, education is one of the main factors for quality of life. Our children are the future of the community and a strong foundation is what is needed for this community to prosper. There is no doubt that Somerset is just that, a beacon of excellence and yet another shining example of what makes Coral Gables, "The City Beautiful", and the envy of the surrounding community. I am keenly aware of the issues presented by both the neighbors and proponents of the school. While, I understand and empathize with neighbors who feel that this is an intrusion into their neighborhood, I do not agree with this position from a land use and zoning perspective. This property is perfect for a Charter School. There is a huge need for additional schools, which is identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The school is just a few blocks from Coral Gables High School, across from the Youth Center and on a main thoroughfare. Furthermore, the neighborhood is in a mixed setting of single family homes, multi-family homes as well as community centers including a Public Library.

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						<p>In addition, this is an existing facility that has the capacity for well over the proposed number of students, there is no proposed addition to the facility to accommodate the number of students. The school's traffic study addresses any potential impacts to the neighbors, and will result in the school having staggered arrival and dismissal times. There is no doubt that full cooperation of not just the school but the parents will be required, but this is no different than any other school operation.</p> <p>In the short time the school has operated, we have demonstrated our commitment to the community, giving back in many ways. We hope this is just the beginning and that we can grow to achieve our greatest potential. We ask for your support to make this a reality.</p> <p>Sincerely, Javier F. Aviñó 740 Navarre Avenue Coral Gables, Florida 33134</p>
499.	04 13 11	Catherine Salabarría 832 Malaga Avenue Coral Gables, FL cathy@imsappraisals.com		X		<p>I am a close neighbor and a current parent at Somerset Gables. I fully support the expansion of this school at the UBC location. I have two boys and walking them to school is priceless!!</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!!</p> <p>Catherine Salabarría 832 Malaga Avenue Coral Gables, FL</p>
500.	04 13 11	Dora Whitney 418 NE 26 street Miami, FL 33137 dwhitney@adaag-consulting.com		X		<p>Name: Dora Whitney Address: 418 NE 26th St, Miami, FL 33137</p> <p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p>
501.	04 13 11	Gonzalo Tamayo & w/Valeria Mejia vmejia@adaag-consulting.com		X		<p>Dear Planning-Zoning Department and City Clerk,</p> <p>Our family is part of the waiting list for the Somerset Gables School (UBC Location), we love the school program and location. These are some of the reasons why we are in Full Support of the expansion project for the school.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Gonzalo Tamayo & w/Valeria Mejia</p>
502.	04 13 11	Dennis & Marlene Daley 1304 Capri Street dennisdaley@bellsouth.net		X		<p>I am writing in support of expanding the Somerset Charter School in Coral Gables. As a long-time resident of Coral Gables, I feel Coral Gables is in need of expanded school choices to include a top-caliber charter school choice. I presently pay for private school and it is a tough financial choice for us, and we have applied to Somerset Gables but not been accepted to date. I urge you to expand the Somerset Gables school to help many</p>

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						<p>middle-class parents such as myself have additional choices for public / charter education. As a final note, almost every community from Homestead to North Miami have excellent charter school choices, and I would hope that a superb community like Coral Gables could find a way to allow this charter school to stay viable.</p> <p>Dennis & Marlene Daley 1304 Capri Street</p>
503.	04 13 11	Carla Wilson carloux@gmail.com		X		<p>"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."</p> <p>Carla Wilson</p> <p>Addresses: 888 S Douglas Rd #203 Coral Gables, FL 33134 and 1014 GranadaBlvd Coral Gables, FL 33134 and 911 East Ponce de Leon Blvd #1604 Coral Gables, FL 33134 -- Carla Wilson carloux@gmail.com</p>
504.	04 13 11	Stella Azpiazu stellaazpiazu@yahoo.com		X		<p>As a long time resident of the Gables, I moved into 2420 Madrid st in 1954. As I child I was surrounded by two schools ST Phillips a block away, and St Theresa school and church half a block away. In the years that I lived in such area,I never remember ever being bothered by school surroundings. School and church had active traffic and I on the contrary since access to these schools was on foot or on bike, we loved the fact that our neighborhood was full of kids and this mainly do to the school access.I will never understand why there is such a negative attitude towards Summerset expansion. The U of M is in a residential area, are there also complaints because of its location?. I strongly support the school expansion.</p>
505.	04 13 11	Christina Boullon Coral Gables, FL 33134 christyg@1011@aol.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Christina Boullon Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
506.	04 13 11	Jessica M. McNelley 7820 SW 51 Ave Miami, FL 33143 jmontes@teksystems.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Jessica M. McNelley 7820 SW 51 Ave Miami, FL 33143</p>
507.	04 13 11	Mirtha Mirthareyes1@aol.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Summerset Gables at the UCB location .</p>
508.	04 13 11	Heather Flynn		X		<p>I am a resident of Coral Gables and o support the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables</p>

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		Hflyn001@fiu.edu				Heather Flynn
509.	04 13 11	Heather Poobear7799@aol.com		X		I am a resident of Coral Gables and I support the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables
510.	04 13 11	Aileen Ortega, Esq. 150 Alhambra Circle Suite 950 Coral Gables, Florida 33134 aileen@lolaw.net			X	<p>From: "Aileen Ortega" <aileen@lolaw.net> Date: April 13, 2011 5:03:06 PM GMT-04:00 To: <colazabal@coralgables.com>, <eriel@coralgables.com>, <coejack@bellsouth.net>, <jeffreyf@flanagan-williard.com>, <reception@beharfont.com>, <jsalman@c3ts.com>, <ebi@bellsouth.net>, <patkeon@aol.com> Subject: Opposition to Zoning Change Dear All,</p> <p>I am a Coral Gables resident and am opposed to the Somerset zoning change.</p> <p>Somerset = substandard facilities for non-Coral Gables residents for the enrichment of Zulueta.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aileen Ortega, Esq. 150 Alhambra Circle, Suite 950 Coral Gables, Florida 33134 (305) 476-8701; (305) 476-8721; aileen@lolaw.net</p>
511.	04 13 11	Anthony Lopez 612 Catalonia Avenue alopez@metrotrafficschool.com			X	<p>From: "alopez@metrotrafficschool.com" <alopez@metrotrafficschool.com> Date: April 13, 2011 5:08:58 PM GMT-04:00 To: "eriel@coralgables.com" <eriel@coralgables.com> Subject: UBC</p> <p>I live at 612 Catalonia Ave and I am opposed to the opening of a 700+ charter school at the UBC location. My kids attended UBC for pre-school and we were pound to have such a great pre-school in the neighborhood, but we do not want a 700+ k-8 school overtaking our neighborhood. There is a big difference between children in pre-school and 8th graders. Moreover, there is an even bigger difference between the traffic associated with a small pre-school and that of a school of over 700 students. That's not even taking into account the cars of the teacher and staff to operate such a large school. As it is Segovia Street already has too many cars and too many speeders. My last and most important point is when we purchased our home in 2002, there was not a large school at the UBC location or we would have looked elsewhere for a home to purchase. Please do not change the rules after the fact.</p> <p>Thank you Anthony LOpez</p>
512.	04 13 11	Veronika Dosseva 3163 Indiana Street Miami, FL 33133		X		<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>My name is Veronika Dosseva and my husband's name is Grisha Nikolov. We are parents</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
		vdosseva@alphanet.org				<p>of a three years old girl.</p> <p>My husband and I, find Somerset Academy to be a great school with long lasting traditions, caring and dedicated teachers that provides an equitable high quality education for our children; therefore we support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Sincerely, Veronika Dosseva 3163 Indiana Street Miami, FL 33133</p>
513.	04 13 11	Jeniset Utreras 3090 S.W. 19 Street Miami, FL 33145 Jeniset487@gmail.com		X		<p>I SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF SOMERSETGABLES AT THE UBC LOCATION.</p> <p>MY NAME IS JENISSET UTRERAS AND MY ADDRESS IS 3090 SW 19 ST MIAMI, FL 33145.</p>
514.	04 13 11	Analidis Ochoa-Bendaña a-ochoa@u.northwestern.edu u		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Analidis Ochoa-Bendaña Northwestern University Weinberg School of Arts and Sciences 2010</p>
515.	04 13 11	Stacey Gonzalez 716 Mendoza Avenue Coral Gables, FI 33134 Stacey35703@aol.com		X		<p>"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."</p> <p>Stacey Gonzalez 716 Mendoza Avenue Coral Gables, FI 33134</p>
516.	04 13 11	Julie and Seaga Cortizas 5736 San Vicente street Coral Gables, FL Julieas1@vzw.blackberry.net		X		<p>My name is Julie ann Seaga Cortizas. 5736 San Vicente street Coral Gables FI 33146 and I support coral gables somi.</p>
517.	04 13 11	Teresa Perez 7300 SW 128th Street Miami, FL 33156 dakkysmom@yahoo.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location</p> <p>Teresa Perez 7300 SW 128th Street Miami, FL 33156</p>
518.	04 13 11	Christa Gurka 3039 Orange Street 33133 christagurka@aol.com		X		<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for the expansion of Somerset Academy Gables at its current location at UBC in Coral Gables. The school has proven to be a wonderful learning environment for our children. The highly skilled teachers and staff provide the type of learning environment that our children need. The principle has also proven to be a positive influence and role model for our youth.</p> <p>I believe the benefits that the expansion of the school will provide the families of our local</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

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						<p>community will far outweigh any concerns the surrounding neighbors may have. If you drive by that location at any given time during the week you cannot even tell there is a school located there. The parents, students, teachers and staff all respect the surrounding neighborhood and would not do anything to jeopardize the beautiful and friendly neighborhood in which it is located.</p> <p>We hope you will support the expansion of the school in some capacity so that we can properly educate and motivate today's children in an effort to secure a strong and stable future.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Sincerely, Christa Gurka 3039 Orange Street 33133</p>
519.	04 13 11	Fransel Llerena 15370 SW 13 Terrace Miami, FL 33194302667@dadeschools.net		X		<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. It is a great asset to the community and neighbors!</p> <p>Warmest Regards, Fransel Llerena 15370 SW 13 Terrace Miami, FL 33194</p>
520.	04 13 11	Cristina Herrero 1410 Ferdinand Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 cristinaherrero@gmail.com		X		<p>I STRONGLY support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Cristina Herrero 1410 Ferdinand Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 305-490-4308</p>
521.	04 13 11	Gregory Koger Gregory.koger@gmail.com			X	<p>From: Gregory Koger <gregory.koger@gmail.com> Date: April 13, 2011 9:56:04 PM GMT-04:00 To: colazabal@coralgables.com, eriel@coralgables.com, coejack@bellsouth.net, jeffreyf@flanagan-williard.com, reception@beharfont.com, jsalman@c3ts.com, ebi@bellsouth.net, patkeon@aol.com Subject: University Baptist Church zoning decision</p> <p>Dear members of the Coral Gables zoning board,</p> <p>I am writing as a Coral Gables resident to express my opposition to any change to the zoning status of the University Baptist Church. UBC has long been a valued part of the community in its current state, and I expect that any change that would expand the charter school would have a devastating effect on the Coral Gables community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

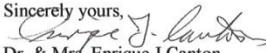
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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						Gregory Koger Associate Professor of Political Science University of Miami www.as.miami.edu/personal/gkoger
522.	04 13 11	Mirella Garcia 2030 South Douglas Road apt 521 Miami Fl 33134 Mirella_17@hotmail.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Mirella Garcia 2030 South Douglas Road apt 521 Miami Fl 33134 3058783317
523.	04 13 11	Marisa Hawayek 55 Merrick Way unit 736, Coral Gables, FL 33134 mhawayek@aol.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location Marisa Hawayek 786-290-9779 55 Merrick Way unit 736, Coral Gables, FL 33134
524.	04 13 11	Dimiris & Panagiota Maratos 3257 Riviera Drive dimi@noveltymiami.corp			X	It is a disgrace to dilute a nice neighborhood area with chaos from a school with more than 110 students. Coral Gables has a tradition in maintaining an organized & well kept neighborhood. Do no prostitute it.
525.	04 14 11	Dr. & Mrs. Enrique J. Canton 313 Candia Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 ecanton@bellsouth.net			X	Changing the zoning to accommodate a school for over 700 students is an outrageous thing to do. Our property value will go down. The traffic in our neighborhood will be horrible. We know of the connections that exist between the Somerset people and the City of Coral Gables. I hope the City respect our neighborhoods and do not allow this change to occur. We'll be watching!

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p style="text-align: right;">CITY OF CORAL GABLES PLANNING DEPARTMENT 2011 APR 13 PM 3:24</p> <p>I would like to add the following for your consideration:</p> <p>It is not true that we bought our homes in Coral Gables because we wanted public schools near by, as if this was a factor to consider before purchasing a home. The change in zoning UBC to accommodate over 700 school children (without counting all the employees, maintenance workers, etc.) will destroy the neighborhood around the area.</p> <p>It's very easy for the owner of Sommerset to put a school for profit not in his own neighborhood, the same as others who do not live around the school. The couple who wrote a letter in Neighbors last week, live a block and a half east of Le Jeune Rd. Not the same as if the school would be across the street or two blocks from their home. They will not be affected by the increased in traffic, etc. Their homes would not suffer any devaluation.</p> <p>UBC does not have the facility to incorporate any sports or physical education to be provided for these students, unless they plan to use the grounds at the Youth Center, invading and disrupting a City-owned facility for C.G. residents that enjoy it. It will also generate more traffic problems if they have to cross the street for 700 plus students all day long.</p> <p>Will UBC change its name if Sommerset Academy takes over the property? No problem here from separation of Church and State?</p> <p>I currently live half a block east of Le Jeune Rd. on Candia Ave. We suffer the traffic congestion, cars parked on Candia waiting for students from Coral Gables High, empty cans and bottles thrown in our driveways and sidewalks.</p> <p>Before moving here, we used to live half a block from UBC, on Anastasia Ave. I am telling you, we know what we are saying.</p> <p>Please consider seriously not to let this happen. It will destroy the neighborhood and with it, a piece of our lovely city.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,  Dr. & Mrs. Enrique J. Canton 313 Candia Ave Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
526.	04 14 11	Mariana Espino 650 Coral Way #304 Coral Gables, FL 33134 Mariana.espino@gmail.com			X	I have been a resident of Coral Gables for more than 20 years – 720 Anastasia & 2805 Segovia – and I am firmly OPPOSED to school of 700+ children in RESIDENTIAL neighborhood. I am also afraid of the future, today they want the big school, and tomorrow they might want another “big” facility.
527.	04 14 11	Adalis Pena Garcia 3131 Segovia Street Coral Gables, FL 33134			X	As a resident of Coral Gables for over 20 years, I purchased my property relying on the Restrictive Covenant that governs the University Baptist Church site and our City's reputation for enforcing its zoning laws and protecting residents. Changing zoning at the University Baptist church site would be detrimental to all that relied on the existing zoning and would set a dangerous precedent. Additionally, the practical effect of significantly increasing noise and traffic would have a catastrophic impact on a major thoroughfare and Coral Gables as a whole. As a resident, a voter and someone who loves this City, I urge

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						you to vote against all the proposed changes.
528.	04 14 11	Iliana Bayona 5561 sw 64 place Miami FL 33155 bayonai@bellsouth.net		X		Please, my name is Iliana Bayona . My address is 5561 sw 64 place . Miami FL 33155 - I want & need the school for my 12 year old son . thanks lly.
529.	04 14 11	Ernesto and Beatriz Guerra 3665 Toledo Street Coral Gables, Fl 33134 equerra@mdwinsurance.com		X		We support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. We believe there is a need and the general impact on the neighborhood will be positive. Ernesto and Beatriz Guerra 3665 Toledo Street Coral Gables, Fl 33134
530.	04 14 11	Lourdes Lameran & Family 825 Madrid Street Coral Gables, FL 33134 1120 Cordova Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 lulilameran@gmail.com		X		To Whom It May Concern: Please accept this email as a request to allow Somerset Academy to expand in Coral Gables. I was born in Coral Gables, and have had the pleasure of living in this beautiful city all 39 years of my life. I was fortunate enough to attend school in Coral Gables, and also belong to a parish in Coral Gables. Somerset Academy offers children today, the opportunity to receive an excellent education in a city where its inhabitants are decent and ethical persons. My children do not even attend Somerset,as there was no room available at the time I went to register them. I want my children to receive the type of education that i received, surrounded by the type of people that i was surrounded by, and who today are still friends of mine, do business with me, and have children who are friends with mine. Please allow this wonderful school to expand in our beautiful community and to enrich the lives of so many children who are being robbed of a good education. Sincerely, Lourdes Lameran & Family 825 Madrid Street Coral Gables, FL 33134 1120 Cordova Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 305-302-5686
531.	04 14 11	Eduardo Riusech Riusechpa1@aol.com		X		I SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF SOMERSET GABLES AT THE UBC LOCATION. EDUARDO RIUSECH, ESQ.
532.	04 14 11	lraton@comcast.net		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.
533.	04 14 11	Edleen Morera 8400 SW 70 Street Miami, FL 33143 edleen@alluniformwear.com		X		To City of Coral Gables, As a parent and business owner I understand the importance and value of good education in our community. I have done business with several charter schools throughout and recognize the outstanding work they do with our youth and students. Due to the overcrowding of our public school system, I believe there is a definite need for more charter schools. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>I trust you will do what is in the best interest of the education of our students.</p> <p>Sincerely, Edleen Morera 8400 SW 70 Street Miami, FL 33143</p>
534.	04 14 11	Sandra Lozowicki Lozowicki3@att.net		X		<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing in support of Somerset Academy Coral Gables. Our 7 y/o daughter attend a public school for one month. The aggression at the school lead me to search for another school. I found SoMi Somerset and my daughter has blossomed emotionally and academically. Her studies are that of a gifted program. I believe in the Somerset Academy curriculum and think every child should have an opportunity to benefit from their teachings.</p> <p>Sandra Smile & The World Smiles with You</p>
535.	04 14 11	Enrique J. Suarez Bksuarez1@bellsouth.net		X		<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Sincerely, Enrique J. Suarez</p>
536.	04 14 11	Miriam Lara 2295 SW 64 ave Miami, FI 33155 drlara@bellsouth.net		X		<p>Miriam Lara 2295 SW 64 ave Miami, FI 33155</p> <p>"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."</p>
537.	04 14 11	Luis Sandoval 626 Coral Way Apt 601B Coral Gables, FL 33134 Luis.sandoval@macys.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Luis Sandoval 626 Coral Way Apt 601B Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
538.	04 14 11	Claudia Dotson 15025 SW 140th Ct. Miami, FL 33186 claudiadotson@comcast.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Claudia Dotson 15025 SW 140th Ct. Miami, FL 33186</p> <p>Thanks!</p>
539.	04 14 11	Sudamys Alfonso 3362 NW 1 St, 103 Plantation, FL 33325 sudamys@yahoo.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Sudamys Alfonso 3362 NW 1 St, 103 Plantation, FL 33325</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						754-223-7984 Thank you and God Bless you, Sudamys
540.	04 14 11	Juan L. Brandt 2501 SW 37th Avenue PH-4 Miami, FL 33133 jlbrandt@gmail.com		X		As an area resident I support this expansion and want the opportunity for my daughters to attend this school. Juan L. Brandt 2501 SW 37th Avenue PH-4 Miami, FL 33133 305-432-4911
541.	04 14 11	Katherine Hoehn Miami, FL 33173 305-271-4127 4127ladybugk@yahoo.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables. Kind regards, Katherine Hoehn Miami, FL 33173 305-271-4127
542.	04 14 11	Laura C Tapia 1544 Murcia Ave. Coral Gables lctapia@me.com		X		From: "Laura C. Tapia" <lctapia@me.com> Date: April 14, 2011 5:05:40 PM GMT-04:00 To: "somersetcharterschoolcoments@coralgables.com" <somersetcharterschoolcoments@coralgables.com> Subject: I support Somerset expansion at UBC location Laura C Tapia, 1544 Murcia Ave., Coral Gables
543.	04 14 11	Sonia Blair 2920 Segovia Street Miami, FL 33134 soniamblair@yahoo.com			X	Gentlemen: Please open attachment. Thank you. SONIA M. BLAIR Resident

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

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					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; margin: 0;">City of Coral Gables Courtesy Public Hearing Notice Comment Form</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Applicant: Somerset Grace School of Coral Gables</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">Change in Land Use, Conditional Use and Site Plan Review 624 Anastasia Avenue (University Baptist Church)</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;">Date: I, or We, <u>4-13-2011</u> 2011</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">Mailing address: <u>I, Sonia M. Blair</u></p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">Email: <u>2920 Segovia Street, Coral Gables FL</u></p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">Please provide: <u>Soniablair @ yahoo.com</u> ³³¹³⁴</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">any applicable</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">comments below (attach additional pages as necessary):</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">D Have no comment, or</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">D Do not object to this application, or</p> <p style="margin: 0 0 0 0;">o Do here by object. I, SONIA M BLAIR the owner of 2920 Segovia Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 do hereby strongly object to the changing of zoning from religious zoning to conditional use which would give the Somerset Charter School the right to have a maximum of 735 students. The change in land use would give a very broad use to a parcel that has a religious zoning. This is strictly a residential neighborhood and must not be changed to a commercial zoning which will change the character of the neighborhood. If the church allows a maximum of 735 students, it will create a tremendous traffic problem. There are plenty of other schools in Coral Gables and outlying areas that can accommodate the overflow of students that want to come to University Baptist Church for schooling. Further, there will be construction on Segovia St. changing a four lane highway to a two lane highway which will also create more traffic problems and accidents. It is my opinion that with a change of zoning from a strictly residential neighborhood to a commercial zoning, it will immediately lower the value of all of the homes of this street and adjacent areas. When I purchased this home in 1989, this was a very quiet Gables residential neighborhood, and it should remain as such!. We residents pay exhorbitant taxes to enjoy our peace of mind and security and we want to keep it that way.</p> </div>
544.	04 14 11	Miriam Azan 5757 Collins Ave Miami Beach, FL 33140 Miriam.azan@gmail.com		X	I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Miriam Azan 5757 Collins Ave Miami Beach, FL 33140
545.	04 14 11	Keidy Agudo Ehret 650 Coral Way #206		X	I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
		Coral Gables, FL 33134 kdnana@aol.com				Keidy Agudo Ehret 650 Coral Way #206 Coral Gables, FL 33134 Thank you
546.	04 14 11	Carlota Agudo 650 Coral Way #104 Coral Gables, FI 33134 carlotax@aol.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Carlota Agudo 650 Coral Way #104 Coral Gables, FI 33134
547.	04 14 11	Anamaria Garcia Anagarcia365@aol.com		X		Planning and Zoning Board, The Garcia Family strongly supports the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables. Somerset has brought such an amazing academic and personal experience to our 5 year old boy. We are 100% satisfied with our decision made two years ago to be a part of an incredible family. The Miami-Dade community needs more schools like Somerset. Regards, Anamaria Garcia
548.	04 14 11	Alex and Erika Dominguez edesautu@live.com		X		To whom it may concern: As a proud parent of a Somerset student we would like to express our support for the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables at UBC. Our son's experience and ours as a family has been truly wonderful and would only love for other families to be able to experience the same opportunity that we have been afforded. Sincerely, Alex and Erika Dominguez
549.	04 14 11	Chris McKenney c.mckenney@mobifusion.com		X		We support the expansion of Somerset Gables at UBC. Cheers, Chris McKenney
550.	04 14 11	Mara Rodriguez-Mena 2505 Granada Blvd. Coral Gables, FI 33134 mararmena@gmail.com		X		To Whom It May Concern, Attached please find my letter of support for Somerset Gables. This is a wonderful school which is not only educating children but building COMMUNITY in Coral Gables. I am a Somerset supporter, neighbor, and parent. I care about my community and my neighbors and I feel we need more school options. Yes, we do have WONDERFUL schools "already in the Gables" but they have waiting lists and even if we live close to Coral Gables Elementary it does not mean it is our homeschool and that our children automatically get accepted. I applied to Coral Gables Elementary in the past and my daughter did not get in and ended up at Carver Elementary. Coral Gables is 5 minutes from my home whereas Carver is 12 minutes away. My daughter's name has been on a waiting list at West Lab all

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					<p>year! Why does this have to be the case? Why are we under the School of Choice/ Controlled Choice Option? Why is acceptance/application process to schools in Coral Gables not determined by boundary and proximity? Somerset Gables offers an option to this issue. Allowing us, Coral Gables residents, to have a community school near or home.</p> <p>Please bring this issue to a timely resolution. Have consideration and compassion for the children and parents of this community.</p> <p>I would like the content of this e-mail to be part of the public record.</p> <p>Thank You, Mara Rodriguez-Mena 2505 Granada Blvd. Coral Gables, Florida 33134</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;">  <p><i>Dear Friends and Neighbors:</i></p> <p>We want to thank everyone who attended the recent informational meeting about Somerset Gables, held at University Baptist Church. We appreciated the honest and fair dialogue. As a neighbor, supporter of the school, and member of the newly-formed Coral Gables Neighborhood School Alliance, I want to communicate on behalf of the new Alliance why Somerset Gables is so important to our community, as well as share some facts that may still be unclear.</p> <p>For those neighbors who took the opportunity to tour University Baptist's facilities, I am sure you will agree that space is more than adequate to meet the needs of the proposed student body.</p> <p>The total number of students Somerset Gables seeks for the proposed K-8 public charter school, inclusive of the already-open pre-school, is 735 students. There were some who thought the number exceeded 1,000, but that is not accurate.</p> <p>As members of the Alliance, we are also neighbors and certainly want the area minimally impacted. As the most discussed topic at the meeting was traffic, one of the speakers did convey that a traffic study was conducted by a seasoned traffic engineering firm with significant educational facilities experience.</p> <p>The study found that University Baptist's facilities can accommodate up to 735 students arriving and dismissing in two and three shifts, respectively. This meant that cars will not affect the adjacent streets during the school's drop off and pick up times.</p> <p>It was also apparent at the meeting that many of the parents who wish to enroll their children at Somerset Gables – should approval for additional students be realized from the City of Coral Gables – plan to walk to the school.</p> <p>As charter schools are allowed to limit enrollment to students residing within a reasonable distance of a school, a vast majority of Somerset Gables students would live minutes from the facility. This not only further mitigates traffic, but lends itself to a true neighborhood school, much like we all yearn for.</p> <p>We desire the best public school education for our children. Many of us with school age children moved to or remain in Coral Gables for that reason. Unfortunately, the two closest public elementary schools in our neighborhood – Coral Gables Elementary and Sunset Elementary – are beyond full capacity. An additional public elementary school in our community, especially one with such a stellar reputation, is an absolute need.</p> <p>We encourage Coral Gables residents and those interested in learning more about Somerset Gables to visit the school's website (www.somersetgables.com). Should you have any questions or are interested in joining the Coral Gables Neighborhood School Alliance, please email us at gablesalliance@gmail.com.</p> <p>We thank you for your interest in public education.</p> <p>Sincerely, <i>Mara Rodriguez-Mena</i> Coral Gables Neighborhood School Alliance</p> </div>
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551.	04 14 11	Sarah Danger 1507 Capri Street Coral Gables FI 33134 dangers@bellsouth.net		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Sarah Danger 1507 Capri Street Coral Gables FI 33134
552.	04 14 11	Scott Gurka 3039 Orange Street Miami, FL 33133 sgurka@teaminc.net		X		Dear Sir or Madam: I am writing in support of the expansion of Somerset Academy Gables. The administration, faculty, parents and students all understand and respect the position of those opposed to this expansion and have worked hard to develop a plan that will ease the tension on the surrounding neighborhood. In its preliminary year, Somerset Gables has not only been a fantastic educational institution for our children, but it has been an exemplary member of the community. In addition to providing a warm, caring, nurturing environment for our children to learn, the administration and faculty instill in our children the importance of being a responsible neighbor which is on display daily as the students are dropped off and picked up from school. In a time where education has become increasingly more important as we fight to maintain our country's status as a world leader, the access to quality schools is decreasing. I believe we would be doing our community a disservice if we do not allow more children to experience the quality education offered at Somerset Gables that will prepare them for high school and college. The principal and her staff have proven to be good role models for our children and leaders in the community. I am confident if given the chance, Somerset Gables will grow responsibly and be a tremendous asset to Coral Gables. Thank you for your consideration and understanding. Sincerely, Scott Gurka 3039 Orange Street Miami, FL 33133
553.	04 15 11	Bobbie Fetherston 3231 SW 20th Street Coral Gables, FL 33145 bfetherston@bellsouth.net		X		We support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. We believe that it is important to have a charter school option in Coral Gables, especially since the current lottery system makes it so difficult to get into the school of choice. Additionally, it is important for us to have a curriculum that has focus on the arts as well as different approaches to teaching and education, and smaller classes with more emphasis on preparation for higher education. Bobbie Fetherston 3231 SW 20th Street Coral Gables, FL 33145 bfetherston@bellsouth.net

1 Comments are duplicate comments provided to various parties.

Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
554.	04 15 11	Graziella P. Martinez 531 San Juan Dr. Coral Gables, FL 33143 ayimart@bellsouth.net		X		Graziella P. Martinez 531 San Juan Dr. Coral Gables, FL 33143 "I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."
555.	04 15 11	Javier and Cristina Martinez 642 Valencia Ave #206 C.G., FL 33134 mjavierxx@gmail.com		X		With respect to the purposed expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location, we support this action! It is important to understand that the school is part of the community. If you reject the expansion, in essence you are reject the opportunities that the Somerset Charter School provides to our children of Coral Gables. This is the point I believe is missed in all this. Yes, there will be an increase of traffic at certain times of the day around the school. Yes, it may inconvenience some neighbors around the area of the school. But at the end of the day, this is a progressive educational system that will provide a solid foundation for our children in Coral Gables. To our understanding, the traffic studies have been completed and the expansion plans have met the guidelines set by the city and fire department as to capacity. So, if the only thing holding back the expansion is the possible inconvenience of some residents, then the decision must be made on the greater good of the community. Again, we support the expansion and hope that a common sense decision can be made for the benefit of our children in Coral Gables. Thank you, Javier and Cristina Martinez 642 Valencia Ave #206 C.G., FL 33134
556.	04 15 11	Sylvie Cuesta sunshinesyl@tmo.blackberry.net		X		To Whom It May Concern, I am writing in support of the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. I have been a Gables resident for over 15 years and now have two small children, one who is already in preschool. I could not believe what I learned recently that I needed to enter a selected lottery in order to get my children into our local public elementary school. I live within a mile of the Somerset Gables location and recognize the dire need there is for another elementary school for our neighborhood children. I have heard wonderful things about the education at Somerset Gables, and it is my first choice for a school if the expansion is granted. I strongly urge you to consider the needs of our local Gables residents and the children who live in this area. Sincerely, Sylvie Cuesta
557.	04 15 11	Cielo Salazar 709 Majorca Avenue		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
		Coral Gables, Fl 33134 Cielito_salazar@yahoo.com				Cielo Salazar 709 Majorca Avenue Coral Gables, Fl 33134
558.	04 15 11	Vernon Ubico 2630 SW 79 ave Miami, FL 33155 Vernonu@Bellsouth.net		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Vernon Ubico 2630 SW 79 ave Miami, FL 33155 Direct (305) 323-4269 Fax. (786) 513-0971 Vernonu@Bellsouth.net
559.	04 15 11	Marion Anson 6490 Sw 82 Street Miami , Fl 33143 monianson@gmail.com		X		With this email I like to support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Sincerely Marion Anson Name : Marion Anson 6490 Sw 82 Street Miami , Fl 33143
560.	04 15 11	Andrew and Megan grovepalmer@gmail.com		X		Dear City of Coral Cables, We are in support of the expansion of Somerset Gables at University Baptist Church. We feel there aren't enough good schools and many are overcrowded. We would love another choice for or children. Thanks, Andrew and Megan
561.	04 15 11	Lorrie Balding Lorrie.balding@iamgrp.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location Lorrie Balding
562.	04 15 11	Fares Chamoun 1228 Alhambra circle Coral gables, Fla 33134 frank@casmiami.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Allowing Somerset to expand will bring about the additional supply of school slots needed in the area and help parents put their children in more affordable schools . I understand some residence will be inconvenienced by the traffic, but the benefit is far greater to the overall community. Thanks for considering my opinion. Fares Chamoun 1228 Alhambra circle Coral gables, Fla 33134
563.	04 15 11	Steve and Robin Juhasz 724 Alhambra Circle, CG 33134 juhaszs@hotmail.com		X		Dear All: Steve and Robin Juhasz support the Somerset charter school in Coral Gables. Our address is 724 Alhambra Circle, CG 33134

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						Sincerely, Steve and Robin Juhasz
564.	04 15 11	Anne Hernandez 1110 Coral Way Coral Gables, FL 33134 sebjul@bellsouth.net		X		I am in favor of the school expansion at UBC. Anne Hernandez 1110 Coral Way Coral Gables, FL 33134
565.	04 15 11	Jackie Gatto 11498-Z SW 109 Road Miami, FL 33176 jgatto@bellsouth.net		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. I believe the expansion can be realized in a manner that is agreeable to both the school and the surrounding neighborhoods. Thank you, Jackie Gatto 11498-Z SW 109 Road Miami, FL 33176
566.	04 15 11	Lance Balding 2929 SW 57 CT Miami FL 33155 lancebalding@gmail.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Lance Balding 2929 SW 57 CT Miami FL 33155
567.	04 15 11	Maria Luz & Andres Zarate 600 Biltmore Way, Apt. 912 Coral Gables 33134 Lulu_reca@yahoo.com		X		Dear Sirs, I support the expansion of the Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Thank you! Maria Luz & Andres Zarate 600 Biltmore Way, Apt. 912 Coral Gables 33134
568.	04 15 11	Daniela Musio 6770 Sw 59 str Miami, FI 33134 dmusio@bellsouth.net		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Daniela Musio 6770 Sw 59 str Miami, FI 33134
569.	04 15 11	Carolina Fernandez 5763 sw 65 ave S. Miami, FL 33143 carolina@isurebrokers.com		X		To whom it may concern, I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Best Regards, Carolina Fernandez 5763 sw 65 ave S. Miami, FL 33143
570.	04 15 11	Antonello Pasci 6770 Sw 59 Street		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
		Miami, FI 33143 Pascia00@msn.com				Antonello Pasci 6770 Sw 59 Street Miami, FI 33143
571.	04 15 11	Ainadi Tirado Marichal 2409 NW 30 ST MIAMI FL 33142 E-MAIL: bibibelleza@yahoo.com		X		Yo Ainad Tirado estoy completamente de acuerdo y : I SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF SOMERSET GABLES AT THE UBC LOCATION . sinceramente AINADI TIRADO .. Ainadi Tirado Marichal 2409 NW 30 ST MIAMI FL 33142 E-MAIL: bibibelleza@yahoo.com
572.	04 15 11	Adriana Cortes 3645 Riviera Ct Coral Gables, FL 33134 lapofa@yahoo.com		X		Adriana Cortes 3645 Riviera Ct Coral Gables, FL 33134 Dear sir / madam, I wanted to write in support of the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. We have two children, one about to start at Somerset if the expansion is approved, and are making the decision to stay in Coral Gables or move depending on the school choices. Restricting the expansion would create a big incentive for us to leave Coral Gables and we are sure there are many families that feel the same way. Regards, Adriana M Cortes
573.	04 15 11	Isabel Gonzalez Isabel.mejia@dhl.com		X		Hello, My name is Isabel Gonzalez, I reside at 4851 Trillo Avenue, Coral gables, FL 33146 "I FULLY support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location." Thank you & regards, Isabel Gonzalez
574.	04 15 11	Alberto A. Mora, P.E. 12554 SW 125 Terrace Miami, Fl. 33186 amora@shiskin.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. I am a parent and I am very happy and impressed with the school. It is an asset to any community. Sincerely, Alberto A. Mora, P.E. Project Manager Schwebke-Shiskin & Associates, Inc. Home address 12554 SW 125 Terrace Miami, Fl. 33186
575.	04 15 11	Maria Grode Gurdiel		X		Dear Sir:

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
		118 Zamora Ave #301 Coral Gables ,FL, 33134 mariaisaelbh@yahoo.com				<p>I just want to make a statement saying that my family supports the expansion of Somerset Gables .</p> <p>We find that unfortunately there is not sufficient schools in the area, and the few ones we have have a waiting list for years to come. My husband and i pay taxes and we do not have a school in the area for our daughter or our neighbors.</p> <p>Thanks for your support and we hope we get and opportunity to expand this great school soon.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maria Grode Gurdie 118 Zamora Ave #301 Coral Gables ,FL, 33134</p>
576.	04 15 11	Carlos Lastres 8141 S.W. 62 Court Miami, FL 33143 clastres@carloslastres.com		X		<p>Please note that I Carlos A. Lastres support Somerset Charter School and do not oppose to the continuation and growth of this school in Coral Gables, Florida. My mailing address is 8141 SW 62nd Court, Miami, FL 33143 and email address is clastres@carloslastres.com</p>
577.	04 15 11	Mary Aymerich mmaymerich@gmail.com		X		<p>Please accept this written note supporting the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables.</p> <p>My son is in his 2nd year at Somerset SoMi and we love it!! Having another such high quality school in our area would be a tremendous asset to the community, its families and most importantly...the children!!!</p> <p>Please allow this school to expand!!</p> <p>Cordially, Mary Aymerich</p>
578.	04 15 11	Carlos & Mariana Carta 715 Anastasia Avenue mecarta@comcast.net			X	<p>The zoning designation being requested by Somerset Charter School and UBC has no place in a residential neighborhood. It will set a dangerous precedent to allow this zoning here. Many other land owners will want to rezone their properties in residential neighborhoods to 'community facility' for their own gain at the risk of the home owners property values. This request must be denied to protect the beautiful residential neighborhoods in Coral Gables.</p> <p>Mariana Espino Carta</p>
579.	04 15 11	Burton and Monique Rosenberg 904 Anastasia Avenue Coral Gables, FL Burt.rosenberg@gmail.com			X	<p>See attached.</p>

¹ Comments are duplicate comments provided to various parties.

Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
					<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>City of Coral Gables Courtesy Public Hearing Notice Comment Form Application: 07-10-113-P Request: Change of Land Use, Conditional Use and Site Plan Review – Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Location: 624 Anastasia Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small; margin-top: 20px;"> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CITY OF CORAL GABLES PLANNING DEPARTMENT 2011 APR 15 AM 10: 09</p> </div> <p>April 15, 2011</p> <p>We, Burton and Monique Rosenberg, residing at 904 Anastasia Ave, Coral Gables, within walking distance of the subject property, with email hurt.rosenberg@gmail.com and monique.rosenberg@gmail.com,</p> <p><i>Do Hereby Object</i></p> <p>for the following reasons:</p> <p>The zoning change proposed will only facilitate a large school, 735 students or more, that is incompatible with the neighborhood. If the zoning is kept as is, Somerset can continue with reasonable expansion, immediately to 200-ish students, as was offered to them by the Coral Gables Commission on July 19, 2010. This would be of similar size to West Lab elementary, and could contain two classes of each grade K through 5.</p> <p>This school is permitted under the current zoning because the Commission did offer it pursuant the Coral Gables Attorney's interpretation of Florida Statute 1002.33(18c), which permits charter schools to operate "under existing zoning". As larger numbers were considered, I do not believe that this is the largest number consistent with the attorney's interpretation, once comfort is gained between the school and its neighbors. Perhaps a school of 350 students, three classes per grade, similar in size to Coconut Grove Elementary or Tucker. In fact, almost 15% of Miami-Dade Elementary schools are that size or smaller.</p> <p>I have talked with the President of the Parents Association for Somerset Gables, and with the founding member of the pro-school Coral Gables Neighborhood School Alliance. Talking with them and reading carefully the advertisements they have placed in the Neighbors section, March 13-th and April 3-ird, their demands are completely consistent with, and perhaps better served, by remaining within the current zoning and implementing a school as described above. These parents are personally not opposed to such a school, but are at the moment not the decision makers about this school. Academica would like to have a very large school, and for that it needs this zoning change.</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>Academica has claimed the school cannot be financially viable at 200-odd students. I have spoken with the Principal of the school, Ms. Ruiz, and she has confirmed that the school, at 110 students, is currently running in the black, and that increased numbers is a matter of being increasingly in the black. This would be a matter of public knowledge, as school budgets are public documents. It is true that a larger school will provide a higher spending level and therefore an even better school than Somerset Gables currently is. However it is not now nor has ever been a matter of not being able to operate. I support the parents in the quest for this school, but the school and the zoning are different matters. The zoning being considered is a gift only to Academica.</p> <p>Please recommend that the zoning remain, so that neighbors and parents can get together, without the interference of outside interests, and see if both our needs can be addressed. We need a good school, and we need a good neighborhood. I think we can do this if there were proper focus on neighborhoods and education. Your decision can provide that focus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  Signature </p>
580.	04 15 11	Michelle Tejera 14271 SW 18 ST Miami, FL 33175 m.tejera@ymail.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location</p> <p>Michelle Tejera 14271 SW 18 ST Miami, FL 33175</p>
581.	04 15 11	Maitee Fernandez 1216 Cordova Street Coral Gables, FL 33134 conteleconmia@aol.com		X		<p>"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."</p> <p>MAITEE FERNANDEZ 1216 CORDOVA STREET CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134 E-MAIL: CONTELECONMIA@AOL.COM</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
582.	04 15 11	(78 letters of support)		X		<p style="text-align: right;"> <small>Law Firm</small> CITY OF CORAL GABLES PLANNING DEPARTMENT LAURA L. RUSSO, ESQ., LLC <small>Gables International Plaza</small> <small>2655 Le Jeune Road</small> <small>Suite: PH 2-B</small> <small>Coral Gables, Florida 33134-5837</small> </p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <small>2011 APR 15 AM 10: 58</small> <small>Telephone: 305-476-8300</small> <small>Telefax: 305-476-8383</small> <small>laura@laurarussolaw.com</small> </p> <p>Via Hand Delivery</p> <p>April 15, 2011</p> <p>Ms. Jill Menendez The City of Coral Gables 427 Biltmore Way Coral Gables, Florida 33134</p> <p>Re: Somerset – Zoning Our File No.: 10L-111</p> <p>Dear Ms. Menendez:</p> <p>I am pleased to deliver 78 letters of support for the Somerset Academy Grace Charter School.</p> <p>Should you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>  <p>Laura L. Russo</p> <p><small>LLR/jr</small> enclosures</p> <p>ATTACHED ARE THE 78 LETTERS OF SUPPORT SUBMITTED WITH THE ABOVE LETTER.</p>

¹ Comments are duplicate comments provided to various parties.

Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
659.	04 15 11	Lourdes R. Avino 740 Navarre Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 Lourdesavino.esq.@gmail.com		X		<p>To all those concerned,</p> <p>I am a parent, neighbor and avid supporter for the further expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC. I could not fully explain the experience we have had at Somerset Gables this past year. We have had the wonderful opportunity to participate in several events such as Farmer's Market, a holiday toy drive at Miami Children's hospital, and story time with the senior citizens that participate at the UBC, just to name a few. These experiences have enriched our family and have made us feel even more committed to this City. The school has provided my son with an amazing education and loving environment that has surpassed all expectations. As a part of this community and this school I ask that you consider the further expansion of Somerset Gables.</p> <p>Thank you, Lourdes R. Avino 740 Navarre Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
660.	04 15 11	Cecilia Vazquez Cvasquez30@hotmail.com		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Sincerely Cecilia Vazquez Spanish Lecturer Modern Language Department University of Miami (305) 284-9312</p>
661.	04 15 11	Ed & Elvira Santamaria 47 San Sebastian Avenue Ecfs7775@hotmail.com		X		<p>We are writing this letter to convey our strong support for the Somerset charter school expansion. We simply believe that a greater academic presence in the City is in the best interests of the community.</p> <p>Why? Because the public educational options of the community are limited and its needs are not met. For example, there are families living in proximity to Coral Gables Elementary that must send their children to a farther school outside the city limits. It seems nonsensical, but it's true. Please consider that inequity when you frame this issue.</p> <p>Much has been made of the impact of an expansion on the surrounding neighborhood. Granted, there will be more traffic in the area, but, consider that the school's location on a major thoroughfare will significantly mitigate this impact, as I am sure traffic studies will show.</p> <p>Some folks on the other side of this issue are handing out flyers calling the proposed expansion a mega school that will bring about unbridled development and sound the deathknell for our City. Really? With all the other problems the City has, we are demonizing the needed expansion of a primary educational facility?</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>As taxpayers and members of the community, we ask that you consider these points in your decision. It is only with your work that a reasonable outcome that balances the needs of the community with the conditions of the surrounding neighborhood can be achieved.</p> <p>Sincerely Ed & Elvira Santamaria 47 San Sebastian Avenue</p>
662.	04 15 11	Susie Blanco 2131 SW 82 pl Miami, fl 33155 susieblanco@aol.com		X		<p>Susie Blanco 2131 SW 82 pl Miami, fl 33155</p> <p>I support the expansion of Somerset in coral gables</p>
663.	04 15 11	Ingrid Deutsch ingriddeutsch@gmail.com 4782 Temple Drive Delray Beach, FL 33445		X		<p>I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Thank you Ingrid Deutsch ingriddeutsch@gmail.com 4782 Temple Drive Delray Beach, FL 33445</p>
664.	04 15 11	Rafael and Ana Penalver 800 S. Greenway Drive Coral Gables, FL 33134 rafaelpenalver@aol.com		X		<p>We strongly support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Please pass our support for this project to the mayor, the commissioners and the city manager.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Rafael and Ana Penalver 800 S. Greenway Drive Coral Gables, FL</p>
665.	04 15 11	Mark Kelling 6760 SW 68th Ter South Miami, FL 33143 makelling@yahoo.com		X		<p>I support expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Mark Kelling 6760 SW 68th Ter South Miami, FL 33143</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
666.	04 15 11	(101 letters of support)		X		<p style="text-align: right;"> <small>Law Firm</small> LAURA L. RUSSO, ESQ., LLC <small>Gables International Plaza 2655 Le Jeune Road Suite: PH 2-B Coral Gables, Florida 33134-5837</small> </p> <p style="text-align: right;"> CITY OF CORAL GABLES PLANNING DEPARTMENT 2011 APR 15 PM 2: 09 <small>laura@laurarussolaw.com</small> </p> <p> Telephone: 305-476-8300 Telefax: 305-476-8383 </p> <p>Via Hand Delivery</p> <p>April 15, 2011</p> <p> Ms. Jill Menendez Planning Department The City of Coral Gables 427 Biltmore Way Coral Gables, Florida 33134 </p> <p> Re: Somerset – Zoning Our File No.: 10L-111 </p> <p>Dear Ms. Menendez:</p> <p>We are pleased to deliver 101 letters of support for the Somerset Academy Grace Charter School.</p> <p>Should you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jessy Pineda</i></p> <p> Jessy Pineda Assistant to Laura L. Russo, Esq. </p> <p><small>/j/p enclosures</small></p> <p>ATTACHED ARE THE 101 LETTERS OF SUPPORT SUBMITTED WITH THE ABOVE LETTER.</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
766.	04 18 11	Calese Thompson-Enriquez calesete@yahoo.com		X		I am writing in support of Somerset at UBC expanding. My 4th child is in Kindergarten at Somerset and I am overjoyed at her progress. The growth of this school will benefit so many, including her older siblings. Thank you, Calese Thompson-Enriquez
767.	04 18 11	Jenny Jimenez jenjimenezramos@gmail.com		X		I STRONGLY support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. Please allow more students at this school. This will be great for the city of Coral Gables. Jenny Jimenez
768.	04 18 11	Burt Rosenberg Burt.rosenberg@gmail.com			X	<p>City of Coral Gables Courtesy Public Hearing Notice Comment Form Application: 07-10-113-P Request: Change of Land Use, Conditional Use and Site Plan Review – Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Location: 624 Anastasia Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida</p> <p>April 15, 2011</p> <p>We, Burton and Monique Rosenberg, residing at 904 Anastasia Ave, Coral Gables, within walking distance of the subject property, with email burt.rosenberg@gmail.com and monique.rosenberg@gmail.com,</p> <p>Do Hereby Object</p> <p>for the following reasons:</p> <p>The zoning change proposed will only serve to facilitate a large school, 735 students or more, that is incompatible with the neighborhood. If the zoning is kept as is, Somerset can continue with reasonable expansion, immediately to about 200 students, as was offered to them by the Coral Gables Commission on July 19, 2010. This would be of similar size to West Lab elementary, and could contain two classes of each grade K through 5.</p> <p>This school is permitted under the current zoning because the Commission did offer it pursuant the Coral Gables Attorney's interpretation of Florida Statute 1002.33(18)(c), which permits charter schools to operate "under existing zoning". As larger numbers were considered, I do not believe that this is the largest number consistent with the attorney's interpretation, once comfort is gained between the school and its neighbors. Perhaps a school of 350 students, three classes per grade, similar in size to Coconut Grove Elementary or Tucker. In fact, almost 15% of Miami-Dade Elementary schools are that size or smaller.</p> <p>I have talked with the President of the Parents Association for Somerset Gables, and with the founding member of the pro-school Coral Gables Neighborhood School Alliance. Talking with them and reading carefully the advertisements they have placed in the Neighbors section, March 13-th and April 3-ird, their demands are completely consistent with, and perhaps better served, by remaining within the current zoning and implementing</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>a school as described above. These parents are personally not opposed to such a school, but are at the moment not the decision makers about this school. Academica would like to have a very large school, and for that it needs this zoning change.</p> <p>I understand that the K through 8 is a popular format, and therefore I understand that this might pose a real compromise for some parents. It is not an argument for or against this format, only that such schools tend to be large. Somerset seems to prefer about 1,200 students in their academies, and I have no doubt that if the zoning were changed, Academica will insist on ultimately a school of this size at the UBC property, and will bring lawsuits under 1002.33(18)(c) as it did previously to achieve this aim. A school of this size is enormous: it would be larger than over 97% of all elementary schools in Miami-Dade.</p> <p>Academica has claimed the school cannot be financially viable at 200-odd students. I have spoken with the Principal of the school, Ms. Ruiz, and she has confirmed that the school, at 110 students, is currently running in the black, and that increased numbers is a matter of being increasingly in the black. This would be a matter of public knowledge, as school budgets are public documents. It is true that a larger school will provide a higher spending level and therefore an even better school than Somerset Gables currently is. However it is not now nor has ever been a matter of not being able to operate. I support the parents in the quest for this school, but the school and the zoning are different matters. The zoning being considered is a gift only to Academica.</p> <p>Please recommend that the zoning remain, so that neighbors and parents can get together, without the interference of outside interests, and see if both our needs can be addressed. We need a good school, and we need a good neighborhood. I think we can do this if there were proper focus on neighborhoods and education. Your decision can provide that focus.</p>
769.	04 18 11	Miriam Guanche and Ernesto Castaneda 5211 Granada Blvd. Coral Gables, FL 33146 miriamg@miamipta.com		X		<p>To Whom It may concern:</p> <p>This letter is to voice our support for the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>We have 2 young daughters (2 and 6 months) and are new residents of Coral Gables. Somerset Gables is our first choice for the future schooling of our children.</p> <p>If there is any way we can offer further support, please count on us.</p> <p>Miriam Guanche and Ernesto Castaneda 5211 Granada Blvd. Coral Gables, FL 33146</p>
770.	04 18 11	Vanessa Pacheco vanypd@gmail.com		X		I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.
771.	04 18 11	Arleen Vasconcelos stressri@gmail.com		X		"I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location."
772.	04 18 11	Cristina Cabrea crisnemicabrera@gmail.co		X		To Whom It May Concern:

1 Comments are duplicate comments provided to various parties.

Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
		m				<p>I would like to take this opportunity to pledge my support for the expansion of Somerset Academy Gables at University Baptist Church (UBC). As a member of the Somerset Gables instructional staff, I feel that the vision and mission of academic excellence fostered throughout our program will empower our students' to become life long learners and an asset to their community; the City of Coral Gables. Join us, in our efforts, to establish a legacy of academic excellence within your city...our city...Coral Gables!</p> <p>I thank you in advance for your support and consideration when pledging your vote to support the expansion of Somerset Academy Gables at UBC.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cristina Cabrera Lead Teacher Somerset Academy Gables 624 Anastasia Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
773.	04 18 11	Lora & Raul Lastra 2209 Segovia Circle Coral Gables, FL 33134 loralastra@comcast.com		X		<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support of the proposed expansion of the Sommerset Gables charter school. My family has lived in Coral Gables for the last 15 years and my husband has his office on Aragon Ave. Our home is located near the school and well within walking distance. I believe having a charter school in Coral Gables is so beneficial to everyone, especially the children. They are the future of our community and they deserve the best education possible. The advantages and flexibility a Charter School has over traditional public schools is undeniable. The City of Coral Gables needs to do this for our children. If the school expansion is approved I will apply for my two young children to apply.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lora & Raul Lastra 2209 Segovia Circle Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305) 903-2271</p>
774.	04 18 11	David and Cecily Wernick ceciwernick@gmail.com		X		<p>Please allow Somerset to expand in Coral Gables.</p> <p>Thank you, David and Cecily Wernick</p>
775.	04 18 11	Victoria Larrauri 615 Madeira Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 viarrauri@yahoo.com		X		<p>Good morning.</p> <p>I am the parent of two school-age children and am very interested in sending them to Somerset Gables. I am writing this email in support of the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>Regards,</p> <p>Victoria Larrauri 615 Madeira Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134</p>
776.	04 18 11	Louan Zagarino 731 Anastasia louanzag@aol.com			X	<p>From: Louanzag@aol.com To: eriel@coralgables.com, coejack@bellsouth.net, jeffrey@flanagan-williard.com, reception@beharfont.com, jsalman@c3ts.com, ebi@bellsouth.net, patkeon@aol.com BCC: alfulks@earthlink.net, sandra@muradolaw.com, albert@mkt-focus.com Sent: 4/16/2011 12:42:12 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time Subj: Zoning Board Meeting</p> <p>Dear Mr. Riel and Zoning Board Members.</p> <p>Concerning the ad that Somerset Academy Gables had in the Miami Herald on Sunday, April 10, 2011 stating "We are your neighbors"</p> <p>I conducted a public records check on all 165 names who signed the Somerset letter, and could only confirm that 53 were Coral Gables Residents. That is 32% of the signers.</p> <p>So, I assume from this number that they are not our neighbors but only want to come to school in Coral Gables. We the taxpayers and true neighbors feel this is an invasion.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these facts.</p> <p>Very sincerely, Louan Zagarino 731 Anastasia, 305-447-2293 louanzag@aol.com</p>
777.	04 18 11	Orlando and Maggie Fernandez 3701 Riviera Drive Coral Gables, FL 33134			X	<p>I consider that the traffic in this area between Coral Gables High & the enlargement of this school will be too much for the neighborhood.</p>
778.	04 18 11	Karyl & Javier Argamasilla 499 Coral Way Coral Gables, Florida 33134 kagamasilla@bilzin.com		X		<p>From: Karyl Argamasilla Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 4:03 PM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'wfoeman@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Cc: Karyl Argamasilla; jargamas@aol.com Subject: Somerset Gables Ladies and Gentlemen:</p> <p>Our family strongly supports the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location. My son currently attends PreK4 at Somerset Gables and we are also neighbors of the school. I have a younger daughter who I hope will one day attend Somerset Gables if the expansion is granted. Right now there is no space for her to attend the school with her brother.</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>As a Coral Gables resident for the past 30+ years and now as a neighbor to Somerset Gables, I am thrilled to have a top-notch alternative for our already overcrowded Coral Gables school system. I know what it is like to live right next to a school as I lived one block away from St. Theresa School where I attended from K-8. Most of my neighbors had their kids enrolled at St. Theresa and it was part of our community, which is what Somerset Gables should and will be to this one.</p> <p>Our family has chosen to live in Coral Gables for many reasons, one of which is the proximity to very good local public schools. I decided to enroll our son in the public school system and was shocked to hear that the other Coral Gables schools were at capacity with a long waiting list. I was advised that even if my son was chosen from the "lottery" system, he still would not be guaranteed a spot in my neighborhood elementary school. That is completely unacceptable.</p> <p>Our family is very adamant about our children receiving a strong education and that is what Somerset Gables provides. They have embraced my son and are providing him with a core foundation for academics. All of the teachers know my son by name and are committed to his success.</p> <p>As you can see from the number of applicants, there is a clear need for another k-8 school in this area. I know parents who have a deep interest in the future plans of the school but are scared to apply in fear that the school will not be approved for expansion. I personally have lost a significant amount of money in deposits and tuition at other private schools because of the need to apply to these schools in case Somerset Gables does not expand.</p> <p>As history will show, there were many projects in Coral Gables that met resistance from neighbors, but once approved, have thrived and provided another reason for others to move to our Beautiful City.</p> <p>The traffic studies submitted by Somerset Gables demonstrate that our school can quadruple and still not cause an issue to our neighbors. I for one never have to wait in the drop off/pickup line because of how well it is run. The parents at Somerset Gables are very cognizant of the neighbors and we follow the strict drop off/pick up/parking rules for this reason.</p> <p>Somerset Gables and the parents of students at the school are committed to work with the City of Coral Gables to find an amicable solution to this issue in a timely fashion. Time is of the essence. One must remember that at the end of the day, the ones who will be most affected by this are the students at Somerset Gables because they will miss out on an opportunity of a stellar education, and who wants to deny a child their right to academics?</p> <p>Somerset Gables is an incredible addition to our community. I respectfully request that you grant the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						Karyl & Javier Argamasilla 499 Coral Way Coral Gables, Florida 33134
779.	04 18 11	Virginia Oliveira 5858 SW 68th St. Miami, Fl 33143 virginia@peak360fitness.com		X		<p>From: Virginia Oliveira [virginia@peak360fitness.com] Sent: Mon 4/18/2011 7:32 PM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Cc: 'wfoeman@coralgables.com' Subject: School</p> <p>I support the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables, I feel that this can only benefit the community, it has in South Miami and will do so in Coral Gables -- Best in Health,</p> <p>Virginia R. Oliveira</p> <p>IMPACT, INFLUENCE, AND EMPOWER Peak 360 Fitness Athletic Performance www.peak360fitness.com</p> <p>5858 SW 68th St. Miami, Fl 33143</p>
780.	04 18 11	Sandra Allen 4061 Ventura Ave. Miami, FL sanpallen@gmail.com		X		<p>From: Sandra Allen [sanpallen@gmail.com] Sent: Mon 4/18/2011 8:19 PM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'wfoeman@coralgables.com' Cc: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Somerset Gables Expansion Request</p> <p>Gentlemen and respected members of the Coral Gables City Commission.</p> <p>I would like to take a few moments of your time to voice my support for the requested expansion of the student body of the Somerset Gables Charter School at University Baptist Church. I can well understand the concerns of those who live in proximity to the school but I believe the school's planners have come up with satisfactory management of traffic plans to effectively deal with traffic issues.</p> <p>What I believe is of great concern is the issue of quality education for our children, a matter which seems to be getting far too little support from government these days. Quality education is essential to the future of this great country. Without it, more and more job opportunities will be surrendered to those with better educations coming from other countries and our sons and daughters will draw the short straws.</p> <p>Somerset Schools have a proven track record of high standards and quality education</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>and I believe it would benefit and reflect positively on the City of Coral Gables to support the school and it's expansion to it's requested size. The support the school has received so far from it's student's parents as well as those seeking to have their children attend is evidence of the importance a quality education to all those concerned, as it should be to your fine city.</p> <p>We respectfully request your support in this most important matter, bearing in mind that it can only benefit the city in the long run as more and more professionals arrive and need to find quality education opportunities for their children.</p> <p>Bart and Sandra Allen</p> <p>4061 Ventura Av.</p> <p>Miami, Fl.</p>
781.	04 18 11	Mark Smith 810 Milan Ave. Coral Gables, FL 33134 smittypsyd@aol.com		X		<p>From: smittypsyd@aol.com Sent: Mon 4/18/2011 8:45 PM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Mark Smith, Psy.D. 810 Milan Ave. Coral Gables, FL 33134</p> <p>304-446-6763</p>
782.	04 18 11	Michelle A. Estlund 147 Sevilla Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305)448-0077 and 733 Camilo Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305) 569-6445 mestlund@estlundlaw.com			X	<p>From: mestlund@estlundlaw.com Sent: Mon 4/18/2011 9:41 PM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'wfoeman@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Opposition to Somerset Gables expansion</p> <p>Please see the attached letter in opposition to the Somerset Gables expansion request. I am requesting that this letter be placed in the public record for the hearing scheduled for April 27, 2011.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>- Michelle Estlund</p> <p>Michelle A. Estlund, P.A. 147 Sevilla Avenue</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
					<p>Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305)448-0077 fax (305) 442-0444 mestlund@estlundlaw.com</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Date: April 15, 2011</p> <p>I am a resident and homeowner in Coral Gables.</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of Somerset Gables. Over the past year, many have spoken very eloquently about the negative repercussions of a 735 student body on the surrounding neighborhood and the entire City of Coral Gables. Several issues bear repeating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change in zoning from “Religious/Institutional” to “Community Services and Facilities” will set a precedent for other churches and temples to request a similar change in order to increase their revenue stream and property value as well as open endless possibilities for future commercial development on these designated properties. • The inability of Somerset’s business model to fit within City’s long-standing plan does not mandate nor necessitate a change in the City’s plan. Rather, just like any other business or educational facility, Somerset must either modify its business model or seek a site which is more suitable for its model. • A 1968 Restrictive Covenant was signed by UBC and the City, declaring that the property would not be leased or used in violation of any ordinances of the City; that part of the property shall not be leased separately from the rest; and that the covenants shall run with the land and be binding upon the trustees and their successors. A covenant is a promise between the City and UBC, and is not to be breached. • Despite Somerset’s representations to the contrary, the proposed traffic patterns will greatly increase traffic in a quiet residential neighborhood. At a recent town hall meeting held at UBC, a police officer from a neighboring city cited his concern based upon professional experience and stressed that traffic during the extended morning and afternoon pick up will present a hardship to this neighborhood. He even suggested that the traffic could be alleviated by building a 6 floor parking garage. • We are not opposed to the charter school, just a school of that size in that small of a space in our residential neighborhood. At the City Commission meeting last spring, the City offered Somerset Academy a compromise number of 210 students. We stand in agreement with that option and feel that it is the maximum number the site and neighborhood can support. Somerset rejected the offer since this number does not

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>accommodate their business model. How does this justify a change in the master plan of the City? It seems they should also be flexible or look for a new site. If the city really does need an additional school of this size, then careful planning must be made to accommodate the students – find a space where there can be a field, a library, in a section of town that is more appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the focus is the 735 students, what about the number of staff members it will take to support a school this size? Our estimate is that it will add at least another 75 people (teachers, janitors, aides, office staff) driving to the site – where will they park? During Sunday morning during church services, church members are consistently parking along Cardena and on Riviera Drive directly under the No Parking signs - sometimes on private property because there are few options. • The hours of operation of the building also pose a problem for the community and would necessarily be contrary Ordinance 2252, which restricts the hours of operation from 8:30 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. If Somerset is like any other school, activity will be constant. There will be afterschool programs, as well as night time open houses and events for parents. <p>Again, my position is AGAINST the request to amend the Coral Gables Comprehensive Plan. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. I love Coral Gables and this beautiful section of the city for what it IS. A school of this size is not appropriate for the surrounding neighborhood and neither is an amendment to our city’s comprehensive plan that is intended for private gain.</p> <p>Michelle A. Estlund 733 Camilo Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305) 569-6445</p>
783.	04 19 11	<p>Laura Smith 7340 SW 61st Court Miami, FL 33143 lds@greenesmithlaw.com</p>		X		<p>From: Laura Smith [lds@greenesmithlaw.com] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 9:20 AM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Somerset Gables Expansion</p> <p>I am fervently in support of the expansion of the Somerset Gables location at the University Baptist Church. Please consider this in your decision regarding expansion. Best regards,</p> <p>Laura Davis Smith Board Certified Specialist in Marital & Family Law Greene Smith & Associates, P.A. 7340 SW 61st Court Miami, FL 33143 T: 786 268 2553 F: 786 268 2556</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
784.	04 19 11	Laura Smith 7340 SW 61st Court Miami, FL 33143 lds@greenesmithlaw.com		X		<p>From: Laura Smith [lds@greenesmithlaw.com] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 9:26 AM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com' Subject: Expansion of Somerset Gables</p> <p>I write today to express my fervent support of the expansion of Somerset Gables Charter School at the University Baptist Church location. I am happy to share my thoughts with you more completely, should you wish to contact me. The school is wonderful, my son is benefitting greatly from the amazing teachers and curriculum and technology as well as the class size. He is doing far better at Somerset than he was at GW Carver which was the school he was placed into (despite our ranking of it as third choice). The school is full of caring and dedicated teachers and staff, and the nurturing environment is one where the children thrive. Coral Gables needs this school. Coral Gables elementary is overcrowded; Sunset is impossible to get into; and Carver is simply not what it used to be, and not a soul is trying to make it better. The people at Somerset are putting the children first, where they belong.</p> <p>Thank you! Laura Davis Smith</p>
785.	04 19 11	Carlos Estrada 175 N.W. 1st Ave. - 26th Floor Miami, FL 33128 CarlosE@miamidade.gov		X		<p>From: Estrada, Carlos (COC) [CarlosE@miamidade.gov] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 2:47 PM To: 'wfoeman@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Somerset Gables</p> <p>As a resident of Coral Gables living within close proximity to the proposed school (424 Candia Ave.), I would be in favor of the opening of such a school to serve our community. My child attends Somerset Somi and I have already submitted an application to the proposed school due to its proximity to my home.</p> <p>I have heard complaints from the neighbors regarding the school being close to the Youth Center and the Coral Gables Library. I cannot think of anything better for a child than to be involved in any of those two settings. Can you think of anything healthier than that? Furthermore, in lieu of the proposed budget cuts facing our public schools for the next 4 years, it is imperative that the charter school option be available in our city. Our local elementary schools are at or over capacity. I recently saw the Coral Gables Preparatory Academy announcing applications for lottery in the Neighbors section of the Miami Herald. The idea of having an elementary school open in a commercial area is flawed. There is no school in the city that meets the criteria; they are all located in residential locations.</p> <p>I believe its time that the City of Coral Gables opens up a new school to serve its citizens. We have the opportunity now and we should take advantage.</p> <p>Carlos Estrada Computer Services Manager Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts 175 N.W. 1st Ave. - 26th Floor</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						Miami, FL 33128 Email: CARLOSE@MIAMIDADE.GOV
786.	04 19 11	Dena Wellman denawellman@gmail.com		X		From: Dena Wellman [denawellman@gmail.com] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 2:46 PM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Support for Somerset Academy This message serves to express my support in the expansion of Somerset Academy in Coral Gables. Somerset offers an invaluable educational experience to the children within our community. Sincerely, Dena Wellman
787.	04 19 11	caritoschmidt@yahoo.com		X		From: caritoschmidt@yahoo.com Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 2:56 PM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: School I support the expansion of Somerset Coral Gables because it gives the people in the neighborhood more school options and opportunities for the kids to have a great education.
788.	04 19 11	Sabrina and Cesar Sogbe 4300 SW 61 st Ave Miami, FL 33155		X		From: Sogbe, Sabrina [ssogbe@law.miami.edu] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 3:06 PM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Hearing Survey
789.	04 19 11	Martha Brievea marthab@procomcorp.com		X		From: Martha Brievea [marthab@procomcorp.com] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 3:07 PM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Regarding the Somerset Academy in the Gables To Whom It may concern: I think it's a great idea for us to have Somerset Academy in the Gables. This is the first year Of my son attending the Somi Somerset Academy and it's the best school/education around! I wish that we would have a school with teachers of this magnitude in the Gables and that my son and other kids in the area can attend. Sincerely, Martha Brievea
790.	04 19 11	Marivi Diaz-Santiago marivi_santiago@bellsouth.net		X		From: Marivi Santiago [marivi_santiago@bellsouth.net] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 5:44 PM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT!!!!!!

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						<p>Marivi Diaz-Santiago Lic. Realtor Realty Investments Corp. Office: 305 271 1111 Cell: 305 788 6471 Fax: 305 271 2222 email: marivi_santiago@bellsouth.net</p>
791.	04 19 11	Cristina cmtravieso@bellsouth.net		X		<p>From: Cristina [cmtravieso@bellsouth.net] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 9:20 PM To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Somerset Gables</p> <p>We support Somerset Gables for the growing needs of the community. We support the expansion.</p>
792.	04 19 11	Mindy Hamersmith minda541@aol.com		X		<p>From: Mindy Hamersmith [minda541@aol.com] Sent: Tue 4/19/2011 9:29 PM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'wfoeman@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Somerset Gables Supporter</p> <p>To whom it May Concern ~ I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location." Please help our children with your support of this wonderful educational opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.....</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> <p>Minda Hamersmith, a concerned Coral Gables resident</p>
793.	04 20 11	Alexandra Corzo-Raton 2410 Madrid Street Coral Gables, Florida 33134		X		<p>From: Alexandra Corzo-Raton [sandy@alistevents.net] Sent: Wed 4/20/2011 8:50 AM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'wfoeman@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: In support of Somerset Gables expansion</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>We want everyone to know that it is also is a huge priority for us to maintain the integrity of the Coral Gables neighborhood and to create the minimum amount of impact on our fellow neighbors as possible. On a personal note, I can also assure you that having had the opportunity to put Julian at Somerset Academy Gables has been the best move I could have made for him this point in his life where he has met an incredible group of teachers and friends. He has taken a huge leap in learning skills including English, Spanish, Math, Reading, Art, Sports and more. It is no doubt that every day is a productive learning experience for him and one which we hope to continue. As parents, we are all ecstatic to be part of this school and hope it will be around as an option for your children and grandchildren in the years to come.</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
						Thank you, Alexandra Corzo-Raton 2410 Madrid Street Coral Gables, Florida 33134
794.	04 20 11	Kelly Linaje kellylinaje@gmail.com		X		From: Kelly Linaje [kellylinaje@gmail.com] Sent: Wed 4/20/2011 9:39 AM To: 'wfoeman@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Somerset Academy Gables Good morning, I am writing to show my support of the expansion of Somerset Academy Coral Gables. I believe that the expansion of this school would be a huge benefit to the residents of Coral Gables. Somerset has a long history of success and excellence. The residents of Coral Gables deserve the opportunity to attend this well-established institution. Somerset completes the already excellent line-up of public schools in the city. Please allow the expansion of Somerset. Thank you, Kelly Linaje
795.	04 20 11	Barbara Valdes 2911 Village Green Drive Miami, FL 33175 bvaldes17@gmail.com				I think we need more schools like Somerset Charter. For higher education with amazing teachers and staff to better service our community.
796.	04 20 11	mpbutterfly73@aol.com		X ¹		From: mpbutterfly73@aol.com Sent: Wed 4/20/2011 2:49 PM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: I support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location
797.	04 20 11	(15 letters of support)		X		From: Laura Russo [Laura@laurarussolaw.com] Sent: Wed 4/20/2011 4:56 PM To: 'sbolyard@coralgables.com' Cc: jessy@laurarussolaw.com Subject: Somerset Attached are letters of support for adding to the record. Thanks, Laura ATTACHED ARE THE 15 LETTERS OF SUPPORT SUBMITTED WITH THE ABOVE EMAIL.

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

	Date Received	Name and Address	No comment	No objection	Object	Comments (Verbatim)
811.	04 20 11	Albert Gonzalez albertgonzalez16@yahoo.com		X		<p>From: albert gonzalez [albertgonzalez16@yahoo.com] Sent: Wed 4/20/2011 5:01 PM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'wfoeman@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: Re: Expansion of Somerset Gables at UBC</p> <p>I Albert Gonzalez support the expansion of Somerset Gables at the UBC location.</p> <p>Sincerely, Albert Gonzalez</p>
812.	04 20 11	Natalie Tanen ntanen@aol.com			X	<p>From: Natalie Tanen [NTanen@aol.com] Sent: Wed 4/20/2011 8:48 PM To: colazabal@coralgables.com; eriel@coralgables.com; coejack@bellsouth.net; jeffreyf@flanagan-williard.com; reception@beharfont.com; jsalman@c3ts.com; ebi@bellsouth.net; patkeon@aol.com Cc: ntanen@aol.com Subject: Coral Gables home owner response to UBC/Academia request for zoning change</p> <p>To the Members of the Planning and Zoning Board,</p> <p>It had been my hope to attend the meeting scheduled on April 27 to voice my opposition to changing the zoning at the current site of the University Baptist Church so that Somerset/Academia Charter School can increase the size of the student enrollment at their school at that location. I am unable to attend the meeting as I have been called out of town on that day for a family matter.</p> <p>I am writing to you so that I can express my thoughts on this matter.</p> <p>My husband and I have owned our home down the street from UBC at 3260 Riviera Dr., for over 30 years. It has been a joy to live in Coral Gables and particularly on this beautiful street. We have lovingly invested our time, energy and finances in improving and maintaining our home in a way that is always consistent with the rules and regulations of the city of Coral Gables. We have played by the book and have felt deep gratitude to the city for keeping our standard of living so lovely here.</p> <p>Now we are being faced with the possibility that the UBC site will house a school of over 700 children if Somerset/Academia gets their request to change the zoning in a way that would allow a dramatic increase in the approved size of the school.</p> <p>I find myself asking why this should be allowed when there are so many facets of the change that would work to the detriment of the community at large.</p> <p>The first and most obvious issue is that of traffic. I am sure that the school will be able to</p>

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Proposed Somerset Grace Academy Charter School Public Hearing Comments

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						<p>pay their experts to come up with a traffic study that will downplay the issue of traffic, but it defies logic to think that having over 700 children dropped off and picked up daily will not lead to an increase in traffic that will potentially be hazardous. The traffic will most certainly be a nuisance. And, of importance to me and the surrounding neighbors, will definitely decrease the value of our homes.</p> <p>Next is the issue of what a change in zoning for this piece of property might mean in the long term future. Apparently the requested change can open up that location to occupants that are terribly contrary to the peaceful enjoyment the neighborhood now shares. The thought of a fire station or electric station down the block from our house is most unpleasant. How can it be fair that we purchased our home knowing exactly what was here in our long established neighborhood and then we get the rug pulled out from under us with this potential change?</p> <p>I also don't understand how it is allowable that the area residents will be made to suffer with the opening of a for profit charter school in Coral Gables when most of the student body of the school is from outside of Coral Gables. And, Coral Gables already has three public elementary schools, some of which are under enrolled.</p> <p>The addition of all of these children to this area will most certainly lead to a greater use of the nearby community facilities built for Coral Gables residents. We greatly enjoy going to the library and using the Youth Center and welcome others using these wonderful facilities. However, it seems reasonable to assume that these facilities will experience a large increase in use from children attending Sommerset Academy at school dismissal time because of the proximity of the school to these facilities. There will not be a way to stagger the numbers as they are now with children coming from all over.</p> <p>Last, I see the whole concept of charter schools as worthy of long term evaluation and potentially greater implementation. But, charter schools are for profit businesses. Given that fact and the previous location of such schools in non-residential neighborhoods, why shouldn't Somerset pick a spot that does not harm the community? Real estate is at low point. There must be another spot where this school can be successfully located. University Baptist has assured us that they are financially solvent without Somerset and that wonderful church will hopefully continue to thrive with or without a 700+ student school. Somerset should not be allowed to change the zoning and should continue to function at its current numbers for the benefit of our community.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns and opinion and I sincerely hope you concur.</p> <p>Very truly yours, Natalie Tanen</p>
813.	04 20 11	Joe Scott jscott777@bellsouth.net			X ¹	From: Joe Scott [jscott777@bellsouth.net] Sent: Wed 4/20/2011 11:13 PM

¹ Comments are duplicate comments provided to various parties.

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						<p>To: 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com'; colazabal@coralgables.com; eriel@coralgables.com; coejack@bellsouth.net; jeffreyf@flanagan-williard.com; reception@beharfont.com; jsalman@c3ts.com; ebi@bellsouth.net; patkeon@aol.com Cc: flascotts@bellsouth.net Subject: Objection to Somerset Gables Expansion</p> <p>Ms. Olazabal, Mr. Riel, Mr. Coe, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Behar, Mr. Salman, Mr. Aizenstat, & Ms. Keon:</p> <p>I am a parent with a child at Coral Gables Elementary and a strong supporter of educational options. However, as a Coral Gables resident who has lived within a half-block of University Baptist Church (UBC) for the past 11 years, I object to the proposed expansion of Somerset Gables and the rezoning of the UBC site for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased traffic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of the school's supporters live outside Coral Gables requiring them to drive their children to school. • Many of the Coral Gables residents who might send their children to the school do not live within walking distance of the school • A school of 735 students will likely result in at least 1,000 additional vehicle trips traversing my neighborhood daily. • While traffic studies may indicate that the roads can handle this excess traffic, the quality and character of life in the neighborhood cannot. • The beautification of Segovia (a long overdue project) resulting in one lane of traffic in either direction will likely result in more traffic using side streets not designed as main thoroughfares. • Somerset, and its parent company, Academica, have a poor record in addressing traffic concerns in other communities (South Miami, Redlands) • Coral Gables has previously ruled against commercial projects in residential neighborhoods with smaller proposed traffic impacts than what is proposed by the expansion of Somerset Grace. 2. Proposed UBC expansion of activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a February 2011 letter to UBC members, Pastor White announced that the Church has given up on its plans to move outside Coral Gables and instead will expand its activities at its current site. • None of the discussions or proposals to date has addressed the expansion of the school and the Church and its impact on traffic. • It is likely that both the Church and the school will conduct day and evening activities (church business, parent teacher conferences, school plays, evening prayer meetings, youth group activities etc ...) impacting the neighborhood from sunrise to long past sunset. 3. Lack of parking

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During services on Sundays, UBC members park in the Church’s parking lot, on the swales of the Church and the neighbors, at the Youth Center, at the library, and in the vacant lot at the corner of Riviera Dr and University. • During an information session earlier this year for Somerset Grace which was attended by an estimated 300 people (Miami Herald), cars were overflowing in these same locations. • What will the daily parking be like when 735 students attend the school and UBC expands its activities? • The UBC parking lot has 93 spaces. Expansion of the school and UBC’s activities will require an increase in staff. Increased use of these 93 spaces by staff will only lead to additional parking by visitors to the Church and school on the swales within the neighborhood and at the Youth Center. <p>4. Financial impact to Coral Gables and its institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Grace / UBC has no recreation fields for its students. • Use of their own parking lot for a recreation area is not an option as their request for expansion is based on sufficient parking within their lot for staff. • If 735 students are permitted at Somerset Grace, its density will surpass every other school in Coral Gables • It is likely that the school will attempt to use the Youth Center field for recreational activities similar to what has happened in South Miami. • Even without permission, it is likely that the students will use the field after school hours. • With funding for public schools at a premium, it is quite possible that expansion of Somerset Grace will result in decreased funding of established and well performing public schools already serving the Coral Gables community. • Increased traffic and parking issues will likely require additional police patrols and activity. • In short, much of the benefit from an expanded school will be for those from outside the Gables while much of the cost and disruption will be suffered by Gables residents <p>5. Zoning change is precedent setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many schools in Coral Gables are limited in their enrollment, physical size, and have had previous requests to expand denied to preserve the character of the neighborhoods within which they reside. • Somerset Grace has been limited in its size, first by the City, and then by court order, for the same reasons. • A change of current zoning is an attempt to skirt these restrictions. • Changing the zoning will set a precedent and likely lead to every private school in the City requesting a similar change in order to expand, affecting multiple neighborhoods. • If the zoning is changed and the school then decides to leave the site, the new zoning will permit many uses not appropriate for a residential neighborhood

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						<p>(City office building, FPL substation, etc ...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the stated purposes of the Coral Gables Zoning Code is “to preserve the basic comprehensive plan and layout of the City by its forefathers, more specifically George Merrick.” • I do not believe that a “Community Services and Facilities” designation for the UBC site, and its potential future uses, adheres to the Comprehensive Plan of the City or the vision of Mr. Merrick. <p>6. Somerset Grace is not needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral Gables already has “A” rated public elementary schools. • Two of these four schools are under capacity. • This excess capacity is sufficient to serve the likely number of potential Somerset Grace students who actually live within Coral Gables <p>7. Permitting the zoning change and expansion of the school will essentially be allowing Academica, the for-profit parent of Somerset Grace, to take over a Coral Gables neighborhood and set a precedent that will affect many other neighborhoods in the City.</p> <p>I appreciate all that you do for our City and I know this issue is a difficult one. Please consider the above observations during your deliberations.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Joe Scott (c) 305.219.8024 (e) jscott777@bellsouth.net</p>
814.	04 21 11	Christy Roig 5000 SW 75th Ave 4th Floor Miami, FL 33155 croig@eventuslive.com		X¹		<p>From: Christy Roig [croig@eventuslive.com] Sent: Thu 4/21/2011 12:07 AM To: 'jmenendez@coralgables.com'; 'somersetcharterschoolcomments@coralgables.com' Subject: SoMi Gables -</p> <p>TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</p> <p>I'm writing to request your support of the SOMI Gables expansion. The school program they run is amazing and truly a benefit for the community.</p>

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