

Council allows rezoning of 61-acre Laveen parcel

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The Arizona Republic

Sept. 20, 2007 12:00 AM

LAVEEN - The Phoenix City Council voted on Wednesday to approve rezoning a 61-acre parcel in Laveen to allow for a significant mixed-use commercial project there.

The Barclay Group is planning to build a power center northwest of 59th Avenue and Baseline Road with Target as its anchor.

The council voted 6-1 to approve the rezoning, with Councilman Michael Johnson dissenting. Councilman Claude Mattox was absent, and Councilman Doug Lingner, whose district includes Laveen, declared a conflict of interest. Two dozen residents signed up to speak out about the project to the council Wednesday. They were evenly divided between those who were eager to bring shopping to their corner of Phoenix and those who said Laveen already had too much commercially-zoned land available.

The majority of the council members said they were satisfied with the Barclay Group's plan for the center, which includes building a stretch of 59th Avenue to relieve traffic in the area.