

## City planners OK charter school for 500

*Legacy Traditional Academy to be built on east side of Hacienda Road south of Florence Boulevard*

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March 07, 2009

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**A private charter school to serve more than 500 students on the east side was approved Thursday night by the Casa Grande Planning and Zoning Commission.**

The panel, on a 5-1 vote, with members Gordon Nedom and Tina Cramp absent, approved a site plan and conditional use permit for Legacy Traditional Academy.

The lone dissent was from member Norman Sam, who said he had major reservations about traffic problems at Florence Boulevard and Hacienda Road that he said would be aggravated by the number of vehicles coming in and out of the school each day.

The school would be on the east side of Hacienda, not far south of Florence. There presently is no traffic light at Hacienda and Florence and, because that would be the responsibility of the Arizona Department of Transportation, it is not known when one might be installed. Earlier traffic studies had indicated that a signal would be required by year 2010. Florence Boulevard is a state highway.

Legacy now has a school in Maricopa, attended by Casa Grande children, the sponsors said, adding that another school in Casa Grande would not harm the Maricopa operation because there is already a waiting list.

The Casa Grande operation would be limited to 525 students, which sponsors said would be filled on opening day in August.

It was estimated that school traffic would be about 260 cars a day. It would increase the Florence/Hacienda traffic by about 20 percent.

Several parents, some saying they belong to car pools to take children to Maricopa, urged the commission to approve the kindergarten- to eighth-grade school, citing smaller class sizes and more attention paid by teachers. Another private charter school, for 450 to 550 students, at Peart Road and Arroyo Trail has received initial approval from the City Council.

### **In other action, the commission:**

-- Approved a major site plan for a 4,020-square-foot Chase bank in a commercial complex on the south side of Florence Boulevard, east of Interstate 10. A Walgreens drug store there is nearing completion.

-- Sent a favorable recommendation to the City Council on a request to change zoning from urban ranch to light industrial on 156 acres south of Peters Road and west of Thornton Road.

