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**Founder/Executive Director**

Biante' Gainous

May 20, 2021

SPCSA Board,

It is with a heavy heart that we submit this update letter to inform you that Las Vegas Collegiate was unable to secure a facility for the upcoming school year. We worked diligently to do so and had a hopeful co-location option available until this past Thursday on May 13<sup>th</sup>. While both the Las Vegas Collegiate Board and the co-location option were in agreement and both boards voted in favor of the facility partnership, unfortunately circumstances out of the control of either party superseded the approved votes.

Last year Las Vegas Collegiate secured a facility at 1072 W. Bartlet Ave. within the 89106 zip code. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19, the Las Vegas Collegiate Board made the tough decision to postpone opening. While the challenges of COVID-19 have not completely subsided, our team has made every effort to find a location within the approved parameters. (Please see **Attachment A** for a list of explored properties).

Unfortunately, facilities are a challenge for any new school, even without the confines of COVID. We recognize that we requested to expand our territory by 1.5 miles for one year and then return to 89106 for a permanent site, however, we now understand that with increased challenges in commercial property and increased costs for construction work, the original request will not afford us the opportunity to cast a wider net needed to secure a facility. We are requesting to amend our initial request to expand our territory by 1.5 miles to 5 miles for temporary or permanent facilities with every priority given to locations closest to 89106 and free busing for parents and families. This will also bolster student recruitment and enrollment.

At this time, my team humbly requests another chance to prove our ability to bring the community a high-quality school option that does not currently exist. The unique model of Las Vegas Collegiate serves the needs of all children through our individualized, small group, two-teacher model. The community deserves a school that will fight for their right to proper education. Las Vegas Collegiate is not ready to give up on the families that have so graciously supported us through this journey. We are dedicated to our parents and family and have made every effort to continue to do so by securing a bus and developing partnerships with neighborhood organizations that could help support ensuring our scholars get the education they deserve.

With the additional time we will alter and update our strategic plan in partnership with our facility developer, High Mark. This plan will include all of the facility options that were out of our approved area, a timeline for completion, costs associated, and all other feasibility assessment points including distance from 89106, traffic assessments, and zoning requirements. This plan can be presented to the Authority Board during the June meeting.

We were hoping to welcome our inaugural group of kindergarten and first grade scholars this coming fall. The Las Vegas Collegiate team is disheartened by the unfortunate circumstances that were beyond our control. We know that when Las Vegas Collegiate secures a facility, we will be a high-quality, five-star option for students and families of the Historic Westside community. We look forward to being an active part of the community and working with the SPCSA to make this vision a reality.

Committed to Excellence,

Biante' Gainous, *Executive Director*

**Las Vegas Collegiate Charter School**

[www.lasvegascollegiate.org](http://www.lasvegascollegiate.org) 702.762.2254 ContactUs@lvccs.org

## **ATTACHMENT A: Assessed Facilities**

### **1. Boys and Girls Club of Las Vegas**

- Staffing impacted by COVID-19, no longer able to offer facility co-location.

### **2. Grace Presbyterian Church**

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions a quorum of board members was not able to form
- As recently as April 2021 the church board was still not convening.

### **3. 273 S Martin Luther King 89106 - Former furniture store**

- Not financially feasible

### **4. 260 S Martin Luther King 89106 - Retail Space**

- Too small, poor traffic ingress and egress.

### **5. 1072 W. Bartlet – Church**

- Lease secured March 2020; Deferral due to COVID-19

### **6. Edmond Town Center 89106, 921-1061 W Owens**

- Not financially feasible

### **7. 600 W Owens Ave 89106 - Former Lodge**

- Inadequate space for future expansion
- Reconstruction and demolition costs too expensive to retrofit for a charter school

### **8. CVS Building, 1425 West Lake Mead Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89106**

- Inadequate space for future expansion
- Not financially feasible to retrofit for school for 1 year of operation

### **9. Molasky Corporate Center, 100 North City Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89106**

- Zoning concerns with retrofit for a charter school
- Ingress/Egress safety issues
- Refused to lease to a school

### **10. 2705 W Lake Mead BLVD, N Las Vegas, NV 89032 - Former Dollar Store**

- Shares a parking lot with Dotty's Casino
- Board advised against this location

### **11. Ninth Bridge, 310 S 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101 - Closing school**

- Approached by landlords to lease the property
- Landlords opted to alter listing from a lease to a purchase
- Purchase not feasible due to lack of square footage for future expansion

### **12. 800 Bruce Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101- Former Church**

- Not financially feasible; would require complete demolition and rebuild.

### **13. 5700 Vegas Dr Las Vegas NV 89108 - Former Church**

- Over 1.5 miles outside of approved zip code for first year of operations
- Unable to purchase and lease unless approved for permanent site.

### **14. 500 S. Rancho Business Park**

- Zoning and traffic challenges

### **Other Facilities Contacted**

1. New Jerusalem Worship Center
2. Saint James Catholic Church
3. Centro Cristiano Pentecostal (Masonic Lodge)
4. North Las Vegas Church of Christ
5. Greater Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church
6. Acelero Learning
7. First Christian Church
8. Pearson Community Center
9. Centro Cristiano Pentecostal de Las Vegas (Church)
10. St. Christopher Catholic Church
11. Nevada Partners