



Mayor
Bernie Platt

May 25, 2011

Christopher D. Cerf
Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Cerf:

Thank you for bringing to my attention the recent charter school application filed by Rev. Amir Kahn and the Solid Rock Worship Center. Please consider this an official indication of my steadfast opposition to the approval of any charter school within the Township of Cherry Hill.

Simply put, a charter school would do nothing more than divert valuable tax dollars and resources away from the award-winning Cherry Hill School District to instead fund what is essentially a private, for-profit educational facility.

Cherry Hill is home to some of the best schools in the State of New Jersey; schools that consistently produce some of the most promising and talented young adults I've ever encountered. The proposed charter school would provide no benefit to the children of this community, and in fact, I believe it would significantly erode the quality of the existing educational system.

The Cherry Hill schools are a tremendous source of pride for our town. Young families move here because they want their children to have the best education possible. In fact, the schools were one of the primary reasons my wife and I moved our own family here more than 40 years ago.

I speak on behalf of myself, the Township Council, the taxpayers, and most importantly the families and students of Cherry Hill, when I say that this issue is of the utmost importance, and I will do everything within my power to prevent this school from ever opening its doors. I implore you to help us maintain the integrity of our educational system by rejecting this charter school application, and instead continuing to direct any available resources to benefit all of Cherry Hill's students.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this critical matter. I can be reached directly at (856) 488-7878; please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss it in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bernie A. Platt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bernard A. Platt
Mayor