

<b>Subject:</b> Formation of a Charter School Planning Team	<b>Number:</b> 8-12
	<b>Date Issued:</b> July 15, 2008 <b>Date Revised:</b>
<b>Responsible Department:</b> Planning & Development Department	<b>Approved:</b>

**Purpose**

The key to revitalizing our City’s urban core and recruiting families and businesses to urban Fresno is dependent on having quality educational opportunities available for all students.

A healthy educational system is also critical to Fresno’s long term prosperity and quality of life – which depends on the commitment and creativity of the next generation and a well-prepared local workforce to compete economically.

Schools must create interesting and exciting learning environments that meet the unique needs and interests of all students.

The City of Fresno supports the growth of quality, public, site-based charter schools whose purpose is to foster innovation, academic achievement and accountability for results.

Good charter schools serve as a catalyst for change – by challenging traditional public schools to be innovative and accountable for results.

**Policy**

To Form a Charter School Planning Team.

**Procedures**

The Planning and Development Director will:

1. Form a Charter School Planning Team to coordinate the planning, permitting, and inspection activities associated with the development of site-based charter schools within the city of Fresno.

2. Assign a lead person from the Planning & Development Department to serve as the Team Leader of the Charter School Planning Team. The Team Leader, who is the point of contact for charter school developers, is responsible for facilitating the planning process, removing obstacles, and proactively assisting site-based charter schools advance through the City process.

Each of the Departments of Public Works, Public Utilities, Fire, Police, and Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services [PARCS] will assign a lead person to serve on the Charter School Planning Team.

The Planning and Development Director will encourage the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and the Fresno Irrigation District to designate a lead person to serve on the charter school permitting team and handle all charter school permits or inspections.

## **Procedures**

The Planning and Development Director will assign the Team Leader of the Charter School Planning Team to:

1. Review quarterly all charter school building projects to develop strategies to efficiently process charter school building project permits, inspections and final certificates of occupancy and to revise those strategies, as appropriate.
2. Maintain an up-to-date list of the status of all charter school building projects and make this list accessible to all members of the charter school permitting team.
3. Provide appropriate contact and background information regarding the charter school permitting process to One Call Center staff to ensure that those who call 621-CITY are referred to the correct member of the charter school permitting team.

The City Manager's office will ensure that 621-CITY operators are prepared to handle calls from anyone seeking to establish a charter school by providing the contact and background information prepared by the Development Partnership Center.