



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Brookhaven Innovation Academy Petitions for Additional Time

Brookhaven, GA - Brookhaven's City Council is asking the staff of the State Charter School Commission for additional time to answer questions about the unique nature of Brookhaven Innovation Academy's (BIA) application for Charter School status. The BIA board has made substantial progress in developing programs, financial planning and community partnerships since the application was first submitted in May, but Commission procedures have not permitted staff to consider these submitted updates.

"The Brookhaven Innovation Academy is unique in its conception, and represents the first Charter School application in Georgia with the support and resources of a city," said Brookhaven City Council Member Bates Mattison. "Brookhaven's Innovation Academy would be a gigantic step forward in improving the educational opportunities for all of Brookhaven's children, as well as the children of DeKalb County and Georgia."

BIA's application to the state charter school commission earned the support of DeKalb County School Superintendent Michael Thurmond, who publicly stated the concept "was innovative," and "had potential" to create educational improvements that would benefit all of DeKalb's students. "Overall, the District supports the inaugural operation of this prospective state-wide charter school in DeKalb County. The District looks forward to collaborating with the Brookhaven Innovation Academy and the school's report of demonstrated student achievement," Thurmond wrote in a letter of support on July 23.

"Unfortunately, our application may be too unique for the bureaucratic process under which the State Charter School Commission has to operate," Mattison said. "What is clearly unique and innovative is being treated as radical. It's as though our application is too innovative -it's a square peg trying to fit through a process that's a round hole," he said.

The BIA Board will continue to press the State Charter Schools Commission for the opportunity to address staff concerns over the next 30 days.

Full text of the letter from Brookhaven Innovation Academy to Georgia Charter Schools Commissioner is available [here](#)

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