

July 19, 2025

Keith Mars, AICP
Interim Director
Development Services Department, City of Austin
6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive
Austin, TX 78752

Re: Escuela Oak Hill at 6240 W US 290 HWY, Austin, Texas 78735, Alcoholic Beverage
Waiver Request

Dear Mr. Mars:

I am writing to express my support for Escuela's application for a waiver to City Code Section 4-9-4(A) which requires a minimum 300-foot distance between a business selling alcoholic beverages and a public school.

I became aware of Escuela when I started seeing improvements being made in the property starting in 2023. I live in the Oak Acres neighborhood just off US 290 HWY less than a mile east of the Escuela property and I frequently drive by.

I became a supporter of Escuela's mission as an urban community farm when they started selling their organic produce at the Barton Creek Farmer's Market. Besides offering locally grown organic produce, what attracted me to their mission was the focus on being an active part of our community by providing opportunities for area residents to visit, take classes and enjoy the historic property. When I learned that they are working to also open a restaurant that would feature their produce, I was thrilled.

I hope you and decision makers realize the importance of Escuela's mission to our neighborhood. The Escuela restaurant/bar is not just another eating place in a strip mall surrounded by concrete along the highway. It is an example of creative re-use of an historic property that benefits not just the owners and employees, but the surrounding community. I can't think of a more fitting development that supports the Austin's development goals of creating a more livable, equitable, and sustainable city.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (512) 751-0800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Patterson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Patterson (& Laurie Willis), 5604 Oak Blvd