



To the Austin City Council:

Wheatsville Food Co-op is a community-owned natural foods retailer with approximately 29,000 members living in and around the Austin metro area. We have been a part of the fabric of this city since 1976, and we support many other local farms, food producers, and non-profit organizations in our day-to-day work.

We are hoping to begin offering the option for on-premise alcohol consumption at our south store, located at 4001 South Lamar Blvd. This is being sought to maintain competitive parity with our much larger national and regional competitors and to help support an increase in the variety and frequency of events offered in our community room, such as trivia and game nights, live music performances, and other family-friendly events. We believe that the option to have a single-serving beer or wine alongside a meal from our deli will help to enhance attendance at these events, contributing to our ongoing success and sustainability as well as that of the other local businesses and organizations we so passionately support.

Because this location is located within 300 feet of the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, we are requesting that the City of Austin grant a waiver of the minimum distance requirement under the Land Development Code § 4-9-4. We have spoken with Ann Richards School Principal Nicole Griffith regarding this request and believe our strong and ongoing relationship with the school will allow us to resolve any issues that may potentially arise from on-premise consumption.

We highly value the Ann Richards students that come into our store daily for meals and snacks or to await pickup by their parents in the afternoon. They are highly recognizable due to their school uniforms, and we go out of our way to ensure they have a safe and pleasant experience in our store. Concern for Community is a long-standing and explicit principle of cooperatives, and taking care of these students is one of the ways we live this principle daily.

We hope that you will consider this request and see your way to allow Wheatsville the same business flexibility as the several other restaurants and retailers in our immediate vicinity already engaging in on-premise alcohol sales. We take our role as stewards of this community seriously and are confident that we can continue to do so if this waiver is granted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "WPB".

Bill Bickford

General Manager