



# *New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church*

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*Rev. Dr. Marshall E. Hatch, Senior Pastor*

December 16, 2016

Thom Alcazar  
EATS Groceries  
C/O [talcazar@eatsgroceries.com](mailto:talcazar@eatsgroceries.com)

Dear Mr. Alcazar

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the proposed development of EATS Groceries. Our church, New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist, has been a significant part of the West Garfield Park community for over twenty-three years. Overtime, we've witnessed the transience of grocery stores, and the dwindling of economic opportunity. We have worked tirelessly to revitalize our neighborhood and encourage healthy eating. That's why we fully endorse EATS Groceries, as it offers an affordable full-service supermarket, as well as dozens of employment opportunities for our community.

The research on "Food Deserts" cite a strong correlation between a community's access to healthy food options and positive educational outcomes for its most vulnerable, the children. Consequently, a viable and sustainable grocery store would effectively serve as a community pillar; promoting health and wellness as the lifeblood for an abundant life. Every child and every family in the city of Chicago should have the access to a high quality grocery store. Mr. Alcazar, we welcome the work you are doing, and welcome EATS Groceries as a neighbor, and community development anchor.

Together, our collective vision and mission will restore our communities. Please accept this letter of support for EATS; our prayers and efforts are lended to its success.

Warmly,

Pastor Marshall Hatch Sr.  
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