

COUNTY BUILDING

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BRANDON JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER – 1ST DISTRICT
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March 12, 2020

Thom Alcazar

EATS Groceries

c/o talcazar@eatsgroceries.com

Dear Mr. Alcazar:

Please accept this letter of endorsement for the proposed development of EATS Groceries in the 1st District. As a resident of the Austin Community, the lack of affordable, healthy food choices for my own family and neighbors is a personal concern. Food deserts are associated with higher rates of serious health conditions including cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and diabetes as well as shortened life expectancy. Alleviation and eradication of food deserts is a key public health priority.

Additionally, EATS Groceries has demonstrated a thoughtful, collaborative plan to engage with existing community partners including faith leaders. They have outlined a commitment to local hiring, local vendor contracts, and teen and young adult workforce development. Much of the 1st District has been the target of systemic disinvestment for generations. Employment and availability of economic opportunity are essential to violence reduction and community restoration. I welcome the presence of EATS Groceries as a partner in promoting strong, healthy, vibrant communities. Every resident of Cook County deserves that.

Sincerely,

Brandon Johnson

Cook County Commissioner District 1