



December 5th, 2012

To: Austin City Council Members

Re: Wheatsville Food Co-op's permit to sell beer and wine at the new 4001 South Lamar location

Dear Mayor Leffingwell and Council members,

I'm writing as a representative of HONK!TX – Festival of Community Street Bands to express our support for Wheatsville Food Co-op's permit to sell beer and wine at their new 4001 South Lamar location.

Since 1976 Wheatsville has been a cornerstone of our independent Austin culture. With over 12,000 invested owners, the co-op is a perfect example of how neighbors take care of neighbors in Austin. Some might consider Wheatsville to be Austin's definitive co-op.

Wheatsville's ability to responsibly create profit directly impacts the amount of money they are able to donate to HONK!TX and other members of our community.

HONK!TX brings twenty bands to the street and parks of Austin neighborhoods for one weekend of free music for all Austinites, and Wheatsville has been HONK's premier sponsor and community partner since inception. Each year Wheatsville donates approximately one-third of our operating budget, provides us volunteers from their staff, and helps us reach out to the wider Austin community. Wheatsville's annual donation to HONK!TX insures that free music is available to every Austinite, whether they be 8 months or 80 years old.

So please grant Wheatsville Food Co-op a permit to sell beer and wine at their new 4001 South Lamar location. Wheatsville has consistently shown they are a responsible beer and wine vendor: they have never sold to an underage customer, successfully enforced TABC rules and regulations, and have trained a front line staff to always ask for proof of age.

So let's acknowledge their continuing responsibility as a local food co-op and community institution.

Sincerely,

Jason Fialkoff

HONK!TX Co-Founder & Lead Organizer

PS – A big brassy **THANKYOU** for continuing to support HONK!TX! See you in March! HONK!