

South Congress Improvement Association (SCIA)

Serving SoCo since 2014

June 5, 2015

Leane Heldenfels
City of Austin
Planning & Development Review Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767-1088

RE: Case Number C15-2015-0071, 1612 South Congress

Dear Ms. Heldenfels,

The Board of the South Congress Improvement Association (SCIA) would like to register its support of the variance request to construct a patio cover structure for Enoteca located at 1612 South Congress Avenue.

The Board supports the request because Vespaio/Enoteca is a long established, successful restaurant which adds significantly to the vitality of the South Congress District and to Austin. Patios and outdoor dining are encouraged as they help promote a vibrant pedestrian environment. The proposed patio cover structure will provide much needed shade and protection from the elements and we commend Mr. Benayoun for the aesthetically pleasing design. Sub Chapter E – Commercial Design Standards allow awnings to cover sidewalks to the property line. This cover will also go the property line and provide a similar type of relief and enjoyment.

The Board supports the request as it is reasonable in this urban location and is consistent with Austin's goals of providing vibrant, commercial districts where residents can enjoy outdoor dining in a pedestrian friendly environment. Please provide this letter of support to the Board of Adjustment members for their consideration.

Best Regards,

Andrew Moore
Executive Director
South Congress Improvement Association

South Congress Merchants Association

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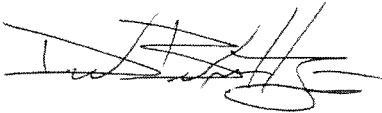
Dear Ms. Heldenfels,

The South Congress Merchants Association (SCMA) recently learned of the variance request to construct a patio cover structure for one of our association's members, Enoteca, located at 1612 South Congress Avenue. As both Enoteca and Vespaio are long-standing businesses and positive contributors to both the South Congress shopping district and greater Austin as a whole, the SCMA fully supports the requested variance.

Mr. Benayoun's excellent design for the new awning will allow Enoteca to continue serving customers both during inclement weather and during hot weather when outdoor diners require shade. South Congress merchants welcome such additions to our shopping district's environment, as it promotes business both during inclement weather and otherwise, and encourages commerce. Furthermore, such awnings already have precedent in the City of Austin's Commercial Design Standards, and this variance will not exceed similar design standards granted to other businesses.

In closing, the South Congress Merchants Association fully supports Enoteca's request as a positive and worthwhile effort that will contribute to our vibrant and pedestrian-friendly commercial corridor, and we ask that you provide this letter to the Board of Adjustment as evidence of our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Hodge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brandon Hodge
President
South Congress Merchants Association