



Dear Planning Commission Members,

My name is Alaska Piper, Director, at the non-profit Rail Yards Market of Albuquerque, located in the historic Barelas neighborhood, which hosts hundreds of local food, farm, and maker businesses annually through our weekly Farmers' Market. The Rail Yards Market is a long-time partner of Street Food Institute, and many businesses have launched at our event, which welcomes more than 100,000 visitors every season. Homewise has also been a valuable partner in market programming and outreach.

I am writing this letter to offer my support for Homewise's proposal to rezone and develop the property at 4<sup>th</sup> and Bell SW into the future home for Street Food Institute so they can continue to provide the incredible training and support they offer to food entrepreneurs from across the city. Catering entrepreneurs are a critical part of the food ecosystem and of Street Food Institute's clientele; under current zoning, this use is not allowable.

Positive impacts of the Barelas Central Kitchen include:

- Create over 100 jobs that are accessible to the vast majority of residents.
- Support new businesses and increase revenue for existing businesses .
- Street Food Institute prides itself on having a low barrier to entry for its classes; this means that community members of all walks-of-life will be able to benefit from this new facility.
- This is all especially relevant in Barelas, where the unemployment rate is two times that of the rest of the United States, and where 80% of households have an annual income under \$50,000.
- This will help Rail Yard Market vendors by providing access to commercial kitchen facilities that are affordable and conveniently located.
- The vendors of the Rail Yards Market contribute over \$1 Million to the local economy every season, and more than 50% of the businesses are food and farms, which would benefit from more commercial kitchen facility opportunities.

I am thrilled to see this kind of development in my city and request your support for this zoning change.

Sincerely,

Alaska Piper, Director

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