



People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources

July 27th, 2015

Dear Mayor Adler & City Council Members:

Please Deny CUP for Springdale Farms, located at 755 Springdale Road and in a residential area. The Condition Use Permit (CUP) for Springdale Farms is not about urban and rural farmers. It not about farms supplying restaurants with locally grown nutritious food. It is not about providing tours for schools. **The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is about outdoor entertainment and not meeting the parking requirements for outdoor entertainment.** Paula & Glenn Foore, owners of Springdale Farms, are requesting a CUP for outdoor entertainment that would allow them to practically become an event center. Springdale Farms is requesting **5 major events with over 150 people and 22 additional events with up to 150 people and limitless number of small events of up to 50 people.** These **for-profit events include sound amplifiers and allow alcohol consumption.**

All urban farms have the current privilege of having 6 events per year by City Ordinance. Springdale Farms is trying to satisfy the parking requirement by using AISD's Allan Elementary School parking lot. Allan Elementary School is currently hosting classes for pre-kindergarten children. Springdale Farms is located in a residential area and surrounded primarily by Latinos. Residents object to the noise, alcohol consumption, traffic and parking problems the events bring to their neighborhood. The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) has the Springdale Farms zoned as residential. Council members I urge you to listen to neighbors adjacent to Springdale Farms by going to <http://youtu.be/-4zXsbpAbyc>. One of the residents states, "The actions of one family should not dictate the enjoyment of everyone else in the neighborhood." This is not about urban farms it's about respecting neighborhoods. People of color neighborhoods must be respected.

Sincerely,

Susana Almanza, PODER

Janie Rangel, Board Chair

Dear School Board Trustee Jayme Mathias:

PODER members are very disappointed in your decision to ignore the concerns of East Austin residents living adjacent to Springdale Farms. East Austin residents have presented numerous concerns regarding the events at Springdale Farms to AISD School Board Trustees. East Austin residents are concerned about the alcohol consumption, noise, traffic and trash brought on by events at Springdale Farms, 755 Springdale Road. The School Board Trustees voted to put together a stakeholders meetings to discuss the concerns of Springdale Farms and the use of Allen Elementary parking lot. PODER agreed to the Stakeholders meeting set for August 3rd, 2015.

Your decision to have a wedding reception/fundraiser for East Austin schools at Springdale Farms, knowing of the concerns and the upcoming Stakeholders meeting **is highly inappropriate**. Your inappropriate decision has created a discussion as to whether anything positive could result from the stakeholders meeting. Residents are feeling that you are trying to persuade AISD School Board Members that Springdale Farms should be allowed to use Allen Elementary parking lot, regardless of the alcohol consumption, traffic and noise that impacts residents living in the area. You are disrespecting the concerns of the East Austin community and neighborhoods. We find your fundraiser at Springdale Farms to be a **total disrespect** to communities of color. As a school board member that is aware of the residents' concerns, you should not be trying persuade other School Board Members. Your actions are highly inappropriate and lacks ethics.

Sincerely,

Susana Almanza, PODER

Open Letter to State Representative Eddie Rodriguez

Dear Representative Rodriguez: The Condition Use Permit (CUP) for Springdale Farms is not about urban and rural farmers. It not about farms supplying restaurants with locally grown nutritious food. You are misrepresenting and/or misinterpreting the facts. The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is about outdoor entertainment and not meeting the parking requirements for outdoor entertainment. Paula & Glenn Foore, owners of Springdale Farms, are requesting a CUP for outdoor entertainment that would allow them to practically become an event center. Springdale Farms is requesting 5 major events with over 150 people and 22 additional events with up to 150 people and limitless number of small events of up to 50 people. These for-profit events include sound amplifiers and allow alcohol consumption. All urban farms have the current privilege of having 6 events per year by City Ordinance. Representative Rodriguez, surely you aware that Allen Elementary School is currently hosting classes for pre-kindergarten children. I hope you recognize that Springdale Farms in located in a residential area and surrounded primarily by Latinos. The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) has the Springdale Farms zoned as residential. Representative Rodriguez I urge you to listen to the neighbors adjacent to Springdale Farms by going to [youtube.com/watch?v=Yse52qC_HNA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yse52qC_HNA). One of the residents states, "The actions of one family should not dictate the enjoyment of everyone else in the neighborhood." Representative Rodriguez, please don't misrepresent or misinterpret the facts. This is not about urban farms it's about respecting neighborhoods. People of color neighborhoods must be respected. Susana Almanza, PODER



People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources

Urban Farms—YES! Event Center—NO!

Please support the residents of East Austin

If you believe that people of color have the right to live in a safe, clean, and peaceful neighborhood, please sign the Petition to Deny Springdale Farms a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for outdoor entertainment.

Send an email to the Austin City Council and ask them to protect the East Austin residents living near Springdale Farm. Ask them to deny a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for outdoor entertainment for Springdale Farm. Email:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members>

Send an email to Austin Independent School Board Members and ask them to deny the use of Allan Elementary Parking lot for Springdale Farms outdoor entertainment. Tell them to protect the children and the families living near Springdale Farms and East Austin. Email: trustees@austinisd.org

View the short video of East Austin residents asking to deny the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Springdale Farms:

[youtube.com/watch?v=Yse52qC_HNA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yse52qC_HNA)

Springdale Farms Request a Conditional Use Permit for Outdoor Entertainment

On June 9th, 2015 Springdale Farms, located at 755 Springdale, requested that the City of Austin's Planning Commission grant them a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to host outdoor entertainment (event center). Springdale Farms is requesting outdoor entertainment permit that would allow them to host 5 major events with over 150 people and 22 additional events with up to 150 people and limitless number of small events of 50 people or fewer. These for-profit events would include sound amplifiers and would allow alcohol consumption. Springdale Farms also wants the right to use off-site parking at Allan Elementary School for their events.

The surrounding neighbors have stated repeatedly that they support urban farms but they do not support outdoor entertainment. Residents adjacent to Springdale Farms, which are primarily Latino, object to the noise, alcohol consumption, traffic and parking problems the events bring to their neighborhood. Springdale Farm was something the neighbors enjoyed but when they began to have outdoor entertainment with amplified sound and alcohol, their peaceful and tranquil neighborhood disappeared.

Attorney Bill Aleshire addressed the Planning Commission. “The applicant asked for too many events with too many people to be compatible with residential neighbors,” said Bill Aleshire, attorney representing PODER. “I ask you, where else in Austin would outdoor entertainment be allowed so often and so close to homes? I am really concerned that in this largely Hispanic neighborhood this is allowed. It reminds me of Austin’s really nasty past on the way it treats people of color.”

On June 9th, 2015 the Planning Commission denied Springdale Farms their Conditional Use Permit for outdoor entertainment. Planning Commissioner and Chair Danette Chimenti, who voted against the CUP permit, summed up neighbors’ concerns. “I live close to South Congress, so I understand what it’s like when your quality of life is difficult because of outdoor amplified noise, parking issues, trash, all of those things,” said Chimenti. “I live a nightmare.”



Background History

In 2012 PODER was contacted by area residents regarding the slaughtering of chickens and burying their body parts on site on a single family zoned property (single family zoned land is usually zoned for housing/homes). Area neighbors complained about the foul smell coming from HausBar Farms. After further investigation by PODER and the Govalle/Johnston Terrace Contact Team, we learned that HausBar Farms was not only slaughtering chickens on site but it

was also whole selling their chickens. The whole sell of chickens is not allowed on single family zoned land. In 2013 the City of Austin decided that the Urban Farm Ordinance needed to be reviewed. The review process was given to the City's Food Sustainable Policy Board. PODER recommended that the review process of the Urban Farm Ordinance be administered by an independent body but the City stayed with its Food Sustainable Policy Board which ignored all the communities (people of color from East Austin) recommendations. After a year of meetings which included two dispute resolution meetings, the Austin City Council adopted a new Urban Farm Ordinance on November 21, 2013. The current Urban Farm Ordinance allowed the commercialization of single family zoned land in East Austin.



On November 21, 2013 the Austin City Council adopted Ordinance Number 20131121-105, known as the Urban Farm Ordinance. That ordinance defines urban farm as the following: Urban Farm use is the use of a site that can consist of multiple contiguous parcels that is a least one acre in size cultivated primarily for the sustainable production of agricultural products to be sold for profit and may provide agricultural educational activities. This ordinance allowed urban farms in all zoning categories including single family, a designation for residential homes.

The Urban Farm Ordinance prohibited the slaughtering, processing of fowl and rabbits and composting of animal parts on residential zoning districts.

The Urban Farm Ordinance requires urban farms to apply for and be permitted to hold a temporary use permit for no more than six events per year.

Springdale Farms, located at 755 Springdale Road is surrounded by single family housing (family homes) in all directions. Allan Elementary School is located east of Springdale Farms.

Springdale Farms Appeals Planning Commission Decision to Austin City Council

A week after Springdale Farms, located at 755 Springdale, was denied a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for outdoor entertainment by the City of Austin's Planning Commission, they filed an appeal to the Austin City Council. Their outdoor entertainment permit (CUP) calls for the use of off-site parking of Allan Elementary School Parking lot for their outdoor entertainment (event center). Springdale Farms is requesting outdoor entertainment permit that would allow them to host 5 major events with over 150 people and 22 additional events with up to 150 people and limitless number of small events of 50 people or fewer. These for-profit events would include sound amplifiers and would allow alcohol consumption.

The concerns of surrounding neighbors, primarily Latinos, have fallen on deaf ears. Springdale Farm is more concern about outdoor entertainment than about urban farming. Many people have stated that the events have become the primary use on the site and the urban farm is just secondary use.



PODER P.O. Box 6237

Austin, TX 78762

(512) 401-3311 poder-texas.org poder.austin@gmail.com