

Dante Clemons

Honored Council,

As a business owner located in the 12th street area, I support Councilwoman Harper Madison's motion.

I am a business owner of Origin Studio House, a creative arts based coffee shop located on 12th Street. It was important to my team and I that we be able to build our business in East Austin, due to the history of the area as a center of Black economic activity and community

During the last meeting of the council to speak on the matter, I did not get to speak because time ran out and that is why I am submitting this letter.

As a business owner of color on the East Side, I am familiar with how expensive it is now for any of us to rent up at the domain, or on Congress. One of the few refuges for business owners like mine is on 12<sup>th</sup> street, which has pedestrian traffic and high discoverability due to its location – which drives our growth.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize that, given the historical context of the district, alcohol use is part of the atmosphere and environment which the area is known for.

Though the area has seen a great deal of gentrification in recent years it is important to point out that many of those residents have moved out of Austin, but remain close enough to act as Patrons to the business and shop owners I am familiar with.

Thinking about the millions of dollars that can be generated by owner's like myself to create prosperity in our communities, I cannot fathom any proposal outside of Councilwoman Harper Madison's being in the business community's best interest.

Please stand with Councilwoman Harper Madison to ensure that permanent changes are made Which reduces the economic viability and options for owners looking to grow and expand in East Austin.

Best,

Dante Clemons

