



Christie Whitbeck-Lazenby, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 31, 2023

Commissioner Dexter McCoy
Precinct 4
Fort Bend County
1517 Eugene Heimann Circle
Richmond, TX 77469

Dear Commissioner McCoy:

Let me offer my belated congratulations on your election as Commissioner of Precinct 4 in Fort Bend County.

We have been informed that Nirmanz Food Boutique, located at 410 Harlem Road in Richmond, has applied for a license to serve beer and wine to its customers. As you know, the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited within 300 feet of a public school. This restaurant is less than the minimum distance from Travis High School with more than 3200 students. The proprietor, Ms. Niyati Shah, has requested a variance from the Fort Bend County Commissioner Court so that the application for a license may be granted.

Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) does not advocate for the sale of alcohol and has concerns that some businesses sell alcohol to persons under the legal age of 21. However, these concerns must be balanced with FBISD's commitment to establish collaborative communities with businesses, churches, and non-profit organizations to support our schools. While I have concerns about the availability of alcohol within 300 feet of 3200 Travis High School students, I am persuaded to rely upon the representations of Ms. Shah that Nirmanz Food Boutique will be vigilant and comply with the law prohibiting the sale of alcohol to those under 21 years of age. Therefore, this letter serves to document that FBISD does not oppose the issuance of a variance so that this license may be issued to the applicant.

If I can assist with additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 281-634-1007.

Sincerely,

Christie Whitbeck