

Amy Johnson

From: Jason Cox <jasonrcox@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 3:44 PM
To: CityRecorder; Vanessa Nordyke; Julie Hoy
Subject: [EXTERNAL]El Torito Grant Application

Mayor Hoy, Councilor Nordyke, and fellow councilors:

I'm writing to strongly encourage approval of the proposed grants for the El Torito Supermarket project in the former Rite Aid building.

This is a rare opportunity to address blight while adding a vital business to the western edge of downtown. Not only will it serve as a badly-needed grocery store that will improve downtown livability, it can provide another shopping and lifestyle destination. The blight improvement is so apparent it needs no further explanation - it is one of the first sights to greet visitors to Salem coming west from Polk County.

I served as chair of the North Gateway Urban Renewal Advisory Board when the URA provided funding to locate the Don Froylon creamery in north Salem on Portland Road. This has proven to be a true magnet for the neighborhood, and has quickly become a Salem institution. You have the opportunity to potentially place another destination in the heart of the city - now's the time!

Thank you,
Jason Cox
Ward 7

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