

Downtown San Jose

GROCERYOUTLET

bargain market

September 12, 2017

Subject: Support the West Option - Downtown San Jose BART Station

Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Carrasco, and Councilmembers,

We are Chevonne and Darren Johst, the owner-operators of the Grocery Outlet store located at 272 East Santa Clara Street in downtown San Jose. We are writing to ask you to vote for the West Option as the location of the downtown San Jose BART station. The West Option is appropriately located in the heart of downtown San Jose and is supported by numerous community groups and business organizations. The East Option moves the station away from the downtown core and would result in the closure of our store.

As life-long San Jose residents and five-plus year San Jose business owners, we cannot tell you how concerned we are about the possibility of having our store closed. San Jose is where we decided to buy a business and raise our family but, due to the current real estate market, if our store is closed a suitable relocation alternative doesn't exist in the area. Therefore, it seems likely that if the East Option is selected we will lose our business and have to move our family out of the community we love.

Downtown San Jose has a bright future but is at risk of becoming a food desert. Access to low-cost, healthy, fresh, and organic fruits and vegetables is even more limited which is why the loss of Grocery Outlet would have so many negative effects. While five dollars might not be a lot of money to some people, to many of our customers five dollars is the difference between being able to afford extra, healthy food or not. Grocery Outlet may seem similar to other grocery retailers but our discounts and prices cannot be matched or compared. Our store is unique and, we believe, important to the community.

Recognizing that decisions like this are not made based on any single factor, below are just a few examples of the contributions our store makes to the community for you to consider when making your decision:

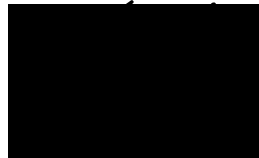
- Only value grocer located in downtown San Jose;
- Only source of low-cost organic fruits and vegetables in downtown San Jose;
- 35 San Jose resident jobs;
- 12 San Jose State University student jobs;
- Over \$100,000 in donations to schools, recovery programs, and youth groups.

Thank you very much for your time. We hope you will consider this letter when making your decision.

Sincerely,



Chevonne Johst
Owner-Operators
Grocery Outlet of Downtown San Jose



Darren Johst

CC: Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors
Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors