



2655 Ranch Road 1869
Box 121
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642-9998

October 5, 2026

Jesus “Jay” Chapa
City Hall
100 Fort Worth Trail
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Re: Samantha Alonso, Code Compliance Department Case 26-748016

Dear Mr. Chapa:

Homemade Texas is a nonprofit organization that works with cottage food producers across the state. We were deeply involved in the passage of the legislation enacted in 2011, 2013, 2019, and 2025 that established and expanded the Texas Cottage Food Law. We are writing because we have become aware of an action by the Fort Worth Code Compliance Department that raises concerns regarding the City’s enforcement of its zoning ordinances as they relate to cottage food production operations.

On September 28, 2026, Samantha Alonso, a cottage food operator in Fort Worth, received a letter from the Fort Worth Code Compliance Department instructing her to “Stop operating a business from a residentially zoned property.”

The letter stated further:

“As the owner and/or tenant of the property listed above, you are responsible for correcting the above-listed violations before the compliance date/s. While it is the City’s preference that you correct the violation/s by the compliance date/s, **failure to comply may result in a fine of up to \$2,000 for each day the property remains in violation.**

Stop operating a business from a residentially zoned property.”

The letter cites Fort Worth Ordinance Appendix A, Chapter 4, Article 6, which provides: “A person commits an offense if a business other than a Home Occupation is conducted in a residentially zoned district.”

Ms. Taborah Reed, author of the letter, may not be aware that Texas law expressly prohibits a municipality from using its zoning authority to prohibit a cottage food production operation from operating from a residence. Section 211.032 of the Texas Local Government Code provides:

“CERTAIN ZONING REGULATIONS PROHIBITED. A municipal zoning ordinance may not prohibit the use of a home for cottage food production operations.”

The Legislature could not have been clearer. The operation of a cottage food production operation from a home is expressly protected from municipal zoning prohibitions. The City’s notice does exactly what Section 211.032 prohibits: it directs Ms. Alonso to stop operating her cottage food production operation because she is operating it from residentially zoned property. The City’s general prohibition against businesses operating in residential districts cannot be applied in a manner that prohibits an activity that state law expressly protects.

This raises a broader concern. Cottage food production operations exist throughout Fort Worth, as they do in communities across Texas. If the City interprets its ordinance to prohibit Ms. Alonso’s cottage food production operation merely because it is conducted from her residence, it is difficult to see how that interpretation would not apply equally to every cottage food producer operating from a residence within the City. Surely that is not the City’s position, particularly when state law expressly prohibits such a result.

Accordingly, Homemade Texas respectfully requests that Fort Worth withdraw the September 28 violation and confirm that Ms. Alonso will not be cited or subjected to further enforcement action for operating a lawful cottage food production operation from her home. We further request that appropriate City staff be advised of the limitation imposed by Section 211.032 so that other Fort Worth cottage food operators do not receive similar notices.

We appreciate the City’s attention to this matter and look forward to its prompt resolution.

Sincerely,

Kelley Masters
President
Homemade Texas

Cc: Senator Lois Kolkhorst
Senator Taylor Rehmet
Representative Ramon Romero, Jr.
Representative Charlie Geren
Dana Burghdoff, Assistant City Manager
Dianna Giordano, Assistant City Manager
William Johnson, Assistant City Manager
Jesica McEachern, Assistant City Manager
Valerie Washington, Assistant City Manager
Mattie Parker, Mayor
Carlos Flores, City Council District 2
Michael Crain, City Council District 3
Charles Lauersdorf, City Council District 4

Deborah Peoples, City Council District 5
Mia Hall, City Council Place 6
Macy Hill, City Council Place 7
Chris Nettles, City Council District 8
Elizabeth Beck, City Council District 9
Chris Jamieson, City Council District 10
Jeanette Martinez, City Council District 11
Leann D. Guzman, Fort Worth City Attorney
Brian Daugherty, Director of Fort Worth Code Compliance Department
Taborah Reed, Fort Worth Code Compliance Department

Attachment A: Letter of violation

Attachment A

FORT WORTH
Code Compliance Department
Case: 26-748016

Date: September 28, 2026

FLORES, CHRISTOPHER
2560 BUNKERTON DR
FORT WORTH, TX 76179

RE: Violation Address; 2560 BUNKERTON DR aka NORTHPOINTE Block AH Lot 36, Fort Worth, Texas

On 09/28/2026, the following violations were observed on the above stated property:

Ordinance	Violation Description	Compliance Date
Appendix A, Chapter 4 Article 6	Stop operating a business from a residentially zoned property.	09/28/2026

As the owner and/or tenant of the property listed above, you are responsible for correcting the above-listed violations before the compliance date/s. While it is the City's preference that you correct the violation/s by the compliance date/s, failure to comply may result in a fine of up to \$2,000 for each day the property remains in violation.

Stop operating a business from a residentially zoned property.

If you have any questions, please contact Taborah Reed at 682-249-8721, or by e-mail at Taborah.Reed@fortworthtexas.gov. (Si necesita ayuda en la traducción de este documento al Español, por favor comuníquese a nuestro centro informativo al 817-392-1234.)

Sincerely,

Taborah Reed

Attachments (Ordinance Language):

Ordinance	Ordinance Language
Appendix A, Chapter 4 Article 6	A person commits an offense if a business other than a Home Occupation is conducted in a residentially zoned district

CC: ALONSO, SAMANTHA (2560 BUNKERTON DR, FORT WORTH, TX 761795346)