

Humildo Valencia

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Members of the City Council

City of Leon Valley
6400 El Verde Rd.
Leon Valley, TX 78238

Subject: *Approval Consideration Regarding Covered Front Porch for 6619 Cades Cove, Leon Valley.*

Dear Leon Valley City Council,

I hope this letter finds you in great spirits. I am writing to respectfully bring to your attention a situation that seeks your understanding and consideration concerning our residence at 6619 Cades Cove in Leon Valley. My mother, Mrs. Erlinda Chavez, aged 81, resides with me and has been diagnosed with various health conditions that contribute to her limited mobility and require limited exposure to direct sunlight. A substantiating letter from her primary physician is attached herewith for your review.

To aid her well-being and facilitate her need for mild exercises out in the fresh air without compromising her health, the construction of a covered front porch was begun on the property, with plans to add a ramp to the front door entryway in the near future. This porch encourages her to go outdoors and pace along the covered 33-foot-long space along our home, something she would otherwise not feel safe doing. It assists her in maintaining independence and quality of life while allowing her to engage in her daily routines safely and comfortably. The front porch is more than just a structure in our home; it's a small yet significant space that helps my mother connect with the world outside her doors. In her advanced age, social interactions have become rare yet are deeply treasured. Having the porch allows her to wave hello to passing neighbors, have short, pleasant conversations with visitors, and simply observe the daily happenings in our community, all from a safe and comfortable space. These small moments of connection, facilitated by the accessibility of the porch, provide invaluable joy and a sense of belonging to my mother, easing feelings of isolation that are all too common among the elderly.

Regrettably, in the haste of beginning construction on this vital addition, obtaining a building permit was overlooked, and it has been brought to our attention that the porch has inadvertently exceeded permissible measurements by a mere few feet. While we understand and respect the norms instituted by the City Planning and Zoning Department, it is with utmost humility that we

seek your understanding and leniency in this matter, considering the imperative health needs and limited mobility of my elderly mother. The width of the porch allows for enough space for her wheelchair when needed during the more difficult mobility days and ensures that should my mother require assistance or company, there is ample space to accommodate additional persons, mobility aids, or medical equipment. I myself am 62 years of age and also benefit from this wider area when providing this assistance to my mother within this space.

I kindly request the City Council to consider the following points:

- **Critical Health Needs:** The porch serves as a vital space where my mother can safely experience the outdoors and engage in activities beneficial for her mental and physical health while being shielded from harmful sunlight.
- **Safety and Accessibility:** Maintaining the porch in its current state provides my mother with a safe, accessible, and comfortable space to navigate, substantially reducing the risk of falls or injuries and ensuring that it can accommodate her wheelchair or other medical equipment necessary to preserve her quality of life.
- **Minimum Deviation:** The deviation from the specified measurements is minimal and does not significantly impact the aesthetic or functional aspects of the neighborhood.

I am available to discuss any aspects of this request or provide further documentation. Additionally, we are more than willing to work with the city to explore alternative solutions that do not compromise my mother's health and accessibility.

Thank you for considering our request. We have faith in the City Council's commitment to serving all its residents, especially those in vulnerable situations. Your understanding and support in this matter are invaluable to us, and we eagerly await your guidance on how to proceed under the prevailing circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Estela Valencia". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Humildo Valencia

Enclosure: Medical Note