

Dear Tomball Economic Development Corporation,

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider Murchison Spice Company's application for the Rental Incentive Program. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity and would like to share how this support would significantly impact our small business and its future in the Tomball community.

I founded Murchison Spice Company in July 2024 and opened our doors in a beautiful storefront at 210 W. Main Street in Old Town Tomball. My husband and I fully self-funded our start-up, investing our personal savings and retirement funds, including over \$70,000 in spice inventory alone. From our opening through May 2025, we built a loyal customer base and became a part of the Tomball community, expanding our product offerings based on local feedback and hosting a variety of events, from cooking classes and art workshops to Girl Scout tea parties and private celebrations.

Unfortunately, our initial location faced ongoing maintenance issues. Persistent roof leaks led to repeated water damage, and despite the landlord's patch-work to the roof, a major storm in late May caused significant flooding inside the store. While we were fortunate not to lose inventory, we sustained over \$3,000 in damages to materials and supplies, and the property's condition, including warping and a worsening mildew problem, made it untenable to remain. We made the difficult decision to vacate in early June 2025.

Since then, we have continued limited operations online and at local events while searching for a permanent new location. Ultimately, we decided to invest in purchasing a 1,400-square-foot property at 1710 S. Cherry Street, just a short distance from our original storefront. However, because the property was zoned residential, the rezoning process, which will be finalized on October 20, 2025, has caused significant delays and additional expenses.

To continue moving forward, we secured a \$100,000 loan in September 2025 to cover renovation costs, ADA compliance, city permitting, materials, labor, and other required upgrades. We also engaged ZM Development Group to assist with city approvals, engineering, surveying, and permitting; expenses that, while necessary, have placed an even greater financial strain on our young business.

Despite these challenges, we remain fully committed to Tomball and deeply believe that Murchison Spice Company adds unique value to the community. Our mission goes far beyond selling spices; we aim to foster connection,

learning, and cultural engagement through our classes, events, and locally inspired products.

Any financial support provided through the Rental Incentive Program would have a transformative impact on our ability to reopen and sustain operations in our new location. It would allow us to focus on growing the business, serving the community, and continuing to contribute to Tomball's vibrant local economy.

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and support of small businesses like ours. We are proud to be part of the Tomball community and look forward to many more years of growth and engagement here.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Murchison

Owner, Murchison Spice Company