From: City of Santa Fe
To: GURULE, GERALDINE A.
Subject: New submission from your Planning Commission & Board of Adjustment Public Comment form
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026 1:18:17 PM

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Submitted on: Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 1:18pm

- First Name: Raquel
- Last Name: Baca-Tompson
- Land Use Board: Board of Adjustment
- Case Number: 2026-13291
- Your Comment: 2395 Richards Ave, Micro Community, Conditional Use Approval

My name is Raquel Baca-Tompson, and I'm the Executive Director of Open Arms Santa Fe. I'm here to speak in strong support of the Richards Avenue Micro Community.

For over two years, Open Arms has run the Arroyo Chamiso Micro Community, Santa Fe's first micro community, in partnership with the City, The Life Link, and Christ Lutheran Church. So I'm not here to talk about an idea. I'm here to tell you what we've seen work.

In that time, we have served 59 residents. Twenty-two of them now have homes of their own. That's more than one in three people who came to us without a place to live and left with keys to their own front door.

I know neighbors have questions, so let me be clear about what a micro community is. It is not a congregate shelter, and it is not an encampment. It is a quiet, private community where people are working on themselves. It is staffed and managed, residents agree to clear expectations, and loitering and visitors have not been a problem.

In fact, people in the surrounding neighborhood regularly come to me with food and other treats for our residents. They feel safe, they've seen that this community works, and they want to help.

We have 10 cabins and a community room just for our residents, where they share meals, meet with case managers, attend workshops and trainings, and simply relax with their neighbors.

The Life Link will manage the Richards Avenue site, and they've been our partner from day one. Santa Fe needs more micro communities like this. I respectfully urge you to approve the Conditional Use Permit. Thank you.