



October 10, 2017

The City of Grand Prairie Development Center  
206 W. Church Street  
Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Dear City of Grand Prairie,

The Fresh Express story started in the 1920's and 1930's when our founder and produce farmer, Bruce Church, grew and sold a plot of lettuce. He later formed an ice company to start shipping fresh heads of lettuce across the country in ice-packed rail cars. People started calling the produce aboard the ice trains "iceberg lettuce" and the name stuck.

In 1989, we created a totally new category of produce: bagged salad sold nationwide. We were the very first to successfully package and nationally distribute fresh-cut, ready-to-eat bagged salad. A few years later, we created our first delicious salad kits, filled with everything you need- even the dressing. We produce nearly 40 million pounds of salad each month and consumers like you eat over 20 million servings of our salads every week.

Fresh Express has been part of Grand Prairie for over three decades and plans to grow along with this city well into the future. As healthy eating options have multiplied, Fresh Express bagged salads, salad kits and organic salads have become a bigger part of the grocery aisle and family menus.

The Fresh Express production facility in Grand Prairie produces retail and foodservice salads and ships fresh product directly to customer distribution centers in seven states. We are planning to expand its production portfolio and capacity to meet increasing demand for salads in this region. Along with an expansion of its production areas, the facility will be increasing warehousing, administration and employee areas. Currently, Fresh Express employs 136 people at its site- the expansion will increase that number to 265, with an option to add 70 more as customer needs increase. There are an additional 25 third-party employees that work to sanitize the production areas overnight- that crew will roughly double as well.

Fresh Express is requesting a variance in building height as part of our long-term plan to remain flexible in the face of growing competition, changing products and material handling innovation. The additional height will allow for future installations of denser, more capable storage systems, which would allow the same building footprint to handle more refrigerated storage. Fresh Express understands the significance of this request but would like to position the Grand Prairie plant to better serve current and expected grocery customer entries into this region.

Fresh Express counts among its people a large number of Grand Prairie residents and all of our people spend time at its stores and restaurants; the facility itself buys material and other items from several supply houses located in Grand Prairie. Fresh Express is committed to maintaining and expanding its operations at its Grand Prairie facility and is proud to grow here along with the City and the region.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dugan, Plant Manager