



Essential Barber Shop

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Dear board members,

My name is Victor Palos and I'm writing this letter to support the efforts of San Diego City College in starting a 1000-hour barber program and underscore that as a local San Diego barber I do make a living wage and able to support myself and my family as professional barber.

I am an independent contractor at Essential Barbershop where I pay booth rent weekly to the shop owner. However, this profession allows me the flexibility to spend time with my family and extend my services to outside opportunities. For example, when conventions come to San Diego, I work with a group that perform barber services for convention attendees. We consider this gig work, but it functions as another source of income outside of working at the barbershop. Sometimes my rates are hourly, by day, or service. On average, at my experience level start at \$45.00 per hair cut which is the going rate for a basic haircut, not including tips. (5 cuts a day is about \$45.00per hour)

This job is not as easy as it looks; I also spend time marketing myself through social media and networking. I have made connections with a couple of police departments, and a lot of those officers come to me for cuts.

I am grateful that I have a good clientele, but I work hard and I love what I do. I would like the committee to understand that good training is required to be successful, and although I did not attend City College, I've heard that the program is solid. Please consider approving the 1000 barber program because the professional barber business needs more guidance and support to ensure professional success.

Thank you,

Vic Palos

“Faded with Vic”

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