

Bryant, Shellie (Clerks)

From: City Council
Sent: September 24, 2018 9:10 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Monday, September 24, 2018 - 09:10
Submitted by anonymous user: 142.165.229.195
Submitted values are:

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Miki
Last Name: Mappin
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Ave L S.
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):
Subject: Increased use of Farmers' Market Building
Meeting (if known): REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL Monday, September 24, 2018
Comments:
I would like to make a presentation of my views to City Council.

I am concerned at the news that a "City Committee is asking City Council to green-light a plan seeking a tenant to develop and manage a six-day-a-week public and farmers' market in the Farmers' Market Building at River Landing."

A solution needs to be found which does not involve pushing out the local farmers and producers, who have small operations and can only sell part-time.

I am a low-income resident of Pleasant Hill, one of the core communities of Saskatoon, and I depend on walking and my bicycle for transportation. For fresh produce, the core areas of Saskatoon are known to be a food desert. If the small producers are pushed out of the Farmers' Market I will lose access to half of the food which makes up my diet.

Saskatoon, like most cities, has a problem with urban sprawl, overdependence on private automobile transport, and the environmental and social problems that accompany these unsustainable trends. Addressing these problems requires an integrated, multi-faceted approach and a clear vision for the future. Similar to the issue of bike lanes, some patience is required, and faith that despite the lack of encouraging short-term metrics, in the long term certain measures will prove to be beneficial to the city. Turning the Farmers' Market building into a more commercially viable operation will drive away the small producers that make the market what it is. These producers will continue to sell, in the parking lots or warehouses of properties in the City's periphery, accessible only by car and subsidized by free parking. I will no longer be able to access these services, other residents of Saskatoon will no longer drive, bike, bus or walk to the Market, and a key part of the City's plan to encourage higher density in the core area will be compromised.

I feel the existing Farmers' Market Cooperative has been steadily building community support and involvement. As time goes on, more people will begin to search out local produce, more people will be living in the new local condominiums, more producers will fill the market and larger operations will begin to open for 6 days.

I would like the City Council to take the long view and invest in local food production.

Yours very sincerely,

Miki Mappin
Attachments:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/258191>