

## Bryant, Shellie (Clerks)

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**From:** City Council  
**Sent:** September 24, 2018 1:18 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Monday, September 24, 2018 - 01:18  
Submitted by anonymous user: 216.197.139.244  
Submitted values are:

Date: Monday, September 24, 2018  
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name: Joanne  
Last Name: Blythe  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED] Munroe Avenue South  
City: Saskatoon  
Province: Saskatchewan  
Postal Code: [REDACTED]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):  
Subject: Saskatoon Farmers' Market  
Meeting (if known): City Council Meeting September 24, 2018  
Comments:

I was dismayed to learn that a City committee has recommended that the City Council approve a request for proposals, so the city can seek a tenant who will develop a six-day-a-week public and farmers' market in the current market space. This means that the Saskatoon Farmers' Market may not have its lease renewed when it expires in May.

I have frequented the Saskatoon Farmers' Market since its beginnings when it set up on 23rd Street between the Public Library and City Hall and followed it as it moved locations and finally took up its new space in what at the time seemed its permanent home. I go to the market because I want to support local producers and buy food grown locally, and because I can talk directly to farmers. I can find out what they put on their crops, how they replenish their soil, and learn a little of their operations. A vibrant Farmers' Market helps keep money circulating in the local economy and is a step towards local food sovereignty. It also encourages rural and urban links and relationships.

Let me remind you that the Saskatoon Food Charter was adopted in principal by City Council in 2002 and that among other things commits the City to promoting partnerships and programs that support rural-urban food links and the availability of locally grown, healthy foods through the Farmer's Market, Good Food Box and other rural-urban initiatives. In what way does the city committee's recommendation promote partnerships and support rural-urban links or the Farmers' Market itself?

I would contend that it does none of those things. First, it creates uncertainty for Market vendors as they don't know whether they will have space in Market Square next spring or where they might be. This makes it difficult to plan for next year's crop, something they must do long before next May. It is totally unrealistic to ask farmers to be operating stalls at the Market six days a week. They need time to farm. I have talked to growers and many of them are getting up at 5 in the morning to prepare for the day, load their trucks come into town and then set up at the Market. Their day doesn't end at 2pm on Saturday. They must take down, load back up and drive back home. Many of the smaller vendors don't have the amount of produce needed to operate a stall 6 days a week. Some have made the argument that more farmers could be brought in to fill the additional days, but the fact remains that Saturday is the busiest and most lucrative market day.

A public market will undermine the integrity of the Farmers' market as it's not going to consist of all locally grown food or locally made crafts or items. Items can pretty much come in from anywhere. We may end up with an animated market, but it won't be an authentic Farmers' Market.

The Saskatoon Farmers' Market needs a permanent home. It currently attracts about 7,000 people to the Saturday market in the summer. It is a tourist attraction. People come there to eat and meet friends as well as

to shop. The Market supports pop-up markets and special events such as Seedy Sunday, the Rhubarb Party and Sea Buckthorn Days. You can be vibrant without being open 6 days a week. The Farmers' Market needs to be supported by the City rather than being threatened with not having its lease renewed. I hope you will support that.

Attachments:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/258147>