

From: Sheri Adams Selway
Sent: January 19, 2021 11:29 PM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: re: Item 6.1 Farmer's Market Budget

Hello Stephanie, I am sending this to you as Clerk listed on the General Issues Committee Agenda for January 21 re: the Farmer's Market Budget.

General Issues Committee:

I have probably shopped regularly at the Central Market for around 45 - 50 years. I buy all my meat, eggs, cheese, coffee, and fresh produce at the market. Before the Pandemic, I would often go more than once per week. The pandemic has been hard on everyone - small business, especially.

During the pandemic, I followed public health instructions and stayed home as much as possible. After initially staying away from the market, I began going once a month, but buying A LOT of food at one time, wearing a mask, and no visiting!

I strongly urge you to use Federal and/or Provincial Covid relief funds to help vendors during this difficult time. If not, use some of the Reserve Funds. Although I honestly support small business in Downtown Hamilton as much as possible, the Market is much more than just a small business. It is also supporting local farmers. Students go there to learn about where food comes from. Musicians go there to play music. It is a community and part of our history.

My understanding is that originally vendors were told they could pay 25% of their rent for several months, and to go back and change that to paying the full rental is unconscionable.

With all due respect, I urge you to revisit this decision. Other cities have been able to help their Farmer's Markets.

I recognize the Market has gone through changes over time, but it has been a part of downtown Hamilton since farmers brought their food in buggies. It is more than a grocery store!

Lead by being a good example to others to help recovery.

Thank you,
Sheri Selway