

Subject: Rent Relief Hamilton Farmers Market

To the Mayor and Members of Council.

Covid has impacted the market profoundly.

Our digital people counter at the door has shown a decrease in customer traffic of 50-75% year over year. -Attachment 1

Some businesses were required to close completely during the lockdown. 5 restaurants have not reopened due to the office employees working from home, and other vendors are closing as vendors cannot sustain their business. Most vendors don't qualify for other grant programs April- September of 2020

The Hamilton Farmers Market Board of Directors had originally approved rent relief with the approved landlord rent relief program announced by the Federal and Provincial government.

We have already been invoiced rent April, May June at 25%, and we were told that we were being considered for July- September as the government program was extended.

Premier Doug Ford who has urged landlords to cooperate with tenants. Premier Ford is quoted as saying "It's not going to be forever. It's going to be for a few months. Help people out. You have an obligation to do that as a landlord" (Toronto Star, May 19th, 2020)

Did you know that the market limited access to the market by closing the mall door?
Did you know that we limited hours of shopping less 3 hours per day, 12 hours a week less than our contract with the City has written?

Why is council not treating market vendors the same as they are treating owners of taxis or other commercial businesses. Jackson Square gave its tenants rent relief, as did Limeridge mall. Other Farmers Markets also had rent relief such as London and Kitchener market.

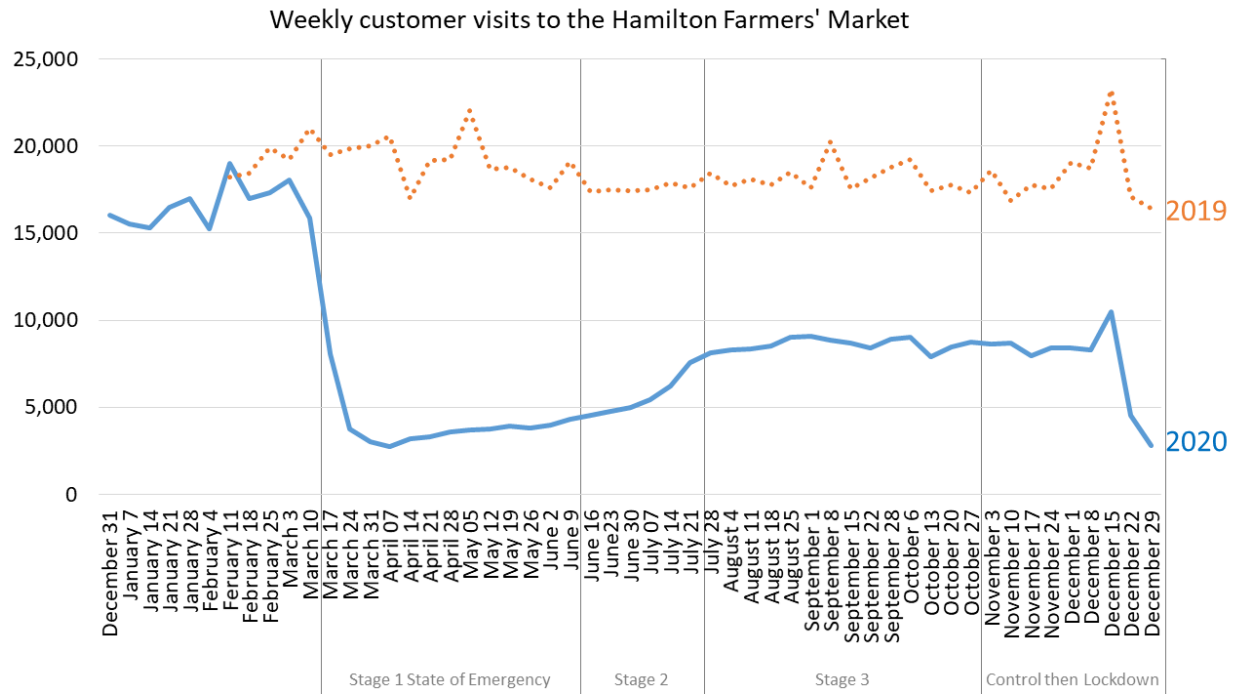
Why did council not have an open discussion previously regarding rent relief as requested.

The Hamilton Farmers Market has run a surplus with the Meridian sponsorship for several years. It's not bonusing to use sponsorship funds, or covid funds provided to the City.

It is not unreasonable to help vendors during these difficult times so we can remain viable for many years to come. The vendors need to have rent relief during these unprecedented times.

Thank You -Shane Coleman -Long term vendor Dilly's Farmacy
Hamilton Farmers Market Stallholder Association President.

Attachement 1





December 18, 2020

IMPORTANT 2021 CONTRACT MEMO TO HFM VENDORS:

Dear HFM Stallholder,

On November 23, the City of Hamilton directed the Hamilton Farmers' Market Board to adopt the *City of Hamilton COVID-19 Occupant Support Framework*, which provides the Market with the authority to defer up to 6 months of outstanding 2020 stall fees owing to the Market by HFM vendors.

What this means is that *the 75% of Stall fees from April, May, June 2020 which remain outstanding to the Hamilton Farmers' Market will not be eliminated as originally hoped.*

You may recall that at the end of June, we invoiced you at 25% of your regular contracted rate in anticipation that the City of Hamilton would align with the Federal Government's Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program and cover the remaining 75% of those fees. However, that is not the decision the City of Hamilton ultimately made, and instead we were granted the flexibility to develop a deferral option that will help vendors to spread out payments *interest free* until the end of 2021.

The deferral option will be available to vendors as part of their 2021 Stallholder Agreement.

We understand that this is may not be welcome news, and it is not the outcome the Board had advocated for however, you do have the option to defer your outstanding 2020 fees at this time.

Full details of the deferral option are available to vendors during contract renewals which will begin promptly. Please notify the Market Office as soon as possible if you wish to explore this option.

Bill Slowka
Market Manager
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