



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 5, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Assessing COVID Related Financial Impacts on Local Farmers' Markets (PED21141) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SUBMITTED BY:	Norm Schleeahn Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

At its meeting on Wednesday May 12th, 2021, Council passed a motion providing staff direction as follows:

That staff engage with local farmers' markets to assess what COVID related financial impacts, over and above those that are eligible for Federal/Provincial support, they are experiencing which the City may consider mitigating under compassionate grounds and report back to the General Issues Committee.

INFORMATION

Following this direction from Council, staff compiled a list of 12 Farmers' Markets across Hamilton, that operate regularly, to be contacted to assess whether any of them will be incurring any new City of Hamilton costs as a result of COVID-19. On Friday May 21, 2021 staff sent an email, included as Appendix "A" to Report PED21141, to the following markets:

Ancaster Farmers' Market
Binbrook Farmers' Market
Dundas Farmers' Market
Hamilton Farmers' Market
Hamilton Mountain Farmers' Market

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Locke Street Farmers' Market
Ottawa Street Farmers' Market
Rockton Farmers' Market
Downtown Stoney Creek Farmers' Market
Waterdown Farmers' Market
Westdale Village Farmers' Market
Winona Farmers' Market

Of the Farmers' Markets surveyed, six operate on private property while six operate on municipal property. Staff received responses from 11 of the organizations that were contacted. None of the organizations that operate solely on private property indicated any additional City of Hamilton fees being incurred in 2021 due to COVID-19. Five of the six Farmers' Markets that operate on municipal property indicated that the costs they incur from the City of Hamilton are the same year over year. Only one, the Waterdown Farmers' Market, identified new costs for rental fees as a result of relocating in 2021.

Although there were almost no new City of Hamilton costs identified through this outreach, nearly all Farmers' Markets did share that their operational costs have increased since 2019 because of the COVID-19 requirements surrounding personal protective equipment, signage, staffing that coincides with a decrease in the number of vendors permitted and capacity limitations for customers due to physical distancing rules.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report PED21141 - Email to Farmers' Market Contacts

JD/jrb