

Feb. 2, 2022

Dear Members of Council

Sole Voting Member of the Hamilton Farmers' Market:

Regarding motion being put forth:

The Hamilton Farmers' Market Board is disappointed with the lack of consultation prior to the motion being put forth. We do not support spending \$100K on a consultant at this time. Those funds could have been allocated to have more immediate and measured impact on the success of the market and its vendors.

The consultants made some excellent observations and five possible models to be considered. The idea of a visioning exercise to set the future course of the market is a good one. However, this will take time to organize, solicit input and report back to council for a decision. In the meantime, the uncertainty of the motion and thus the future of the market, creates an atmosphere of fear and stress for vendors and customer. We believe Council has enough information from this report and the various other reports made by consultants and staff to make a decision AND then to work on a future vision. The board is already in the planning stages to revisit its mission and will continue to forge ahead with its mandate to grow the Market and solidify its place in the community. The Board would like to continue to work with the City in a positive manner without this future uncertainty.

Submitted on behalf of the Hamilton Farmers' Market Board

Executive - Elly Bowen (Chair/Secretary) Damian Wills (Vice-Chair) Wilf Arndt (Treasurer)