

**From:** Rena Basch

**Sent:** Sunday, July 10, 2016 12:48 PM

**To:** Gale, Mia <RGale@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

**Subject:** Please recommend approval of the Farmers Market Enclosure Site Plan and Landscape Modification

Hello Commissioners,

I would like to express my strong support for the proposed Farmers Market building and infrastructure improvement project. I will be out of town on Tuesday, July 12 and unable to come speak at the meeting, so I hope you will accept this email:

I was on the Ann Arbor Township Planning Commission from 2000-2004, and I've been the Ann Arbor Township Clerk and on the Township Board of Trustees for the past 12 years, so I understand what it's like to be in your shoes, listening to all the different stakeholders and trying to do what is best for the community as a whole. I also own and operate Locavorious, a locally grown fruit and vegetable freezing business, which has been coming to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market for the past 8 years primarily during the winter months. I am very concerned that a few outspoken voices have spread misinformation in an effort to derail this project. As a vendor, I am very much in favor of the proposed building, and I've heard positive feedback from my customers too. We need to update and improve our historic and iconic Ann Arbor Farmers Market, and make the space more customer-friendly and useable more days of the year. Many other local farmers markets have a mix of indoor and outdoor spaces that make them pleasant for shoppers and vendors regardless of the weather. The proposed building will drive economic development. The proposal's architecture is appealing. The proposed project is the right all-seasons market improvement for our community. I hope you will vote to recommend approval of the Farmers Market Enclosure Site Plan.

Thank you,

*Rena Basch*

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