



407 N 5TH AVE
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
734.224.8859



2200 FULLER CT
ANN ARBOR, MI 48105
734.224.8872

Planning & Development Services
301 E Huron St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Planning Commission Members,

I am writing you as a business owner located steps from the Ann Arbor Farmers Market and as a homeowner within a mile of the Farmers Market.

I love to call Ann Arbor home. I also love to travel. Every city I visit, I try to visit as many public markets I can. In all the cities I visit that are recovering from the Great Recession, the blossoming neighborhoods are those around public markets. The one's that appear to be the largest hub of activity are those with permanent structures. Those that have small food stalls, artisans, fresh produce and cover from inclement weather are filled with foot traffic 52 weeks out of the year.

I have been dreaming about a permanent structure for the Ann Arbor Farmers Market for years. I am so glad there is energy, funding and staff resources are behind this project.

I have been following this project for some time and sat on the Community Advisory Committee for the project representing as an adjacent business owner. I am very excited for the possible infrastructure changes this could provide for the Farmers Market. As a close by business owner, I am anxious to see what this building could do for Wintertime foot traffic for the neighborhood. I have been in a number of tenant meetings for the Kerrytown Market & Shops and have asked tenants repeatedly to come to me to express any concerns and feedback. I have not hear any negative feedback from tenants about the project. There are concerns about how parking could be affected, but parking is a much broader issue our neighborhood is facing.

The Lunch Room purchases vegetables and products from the market twice a week most weeks during the year. We fully support this type of growth for the market and would love to see the neighborhood bustling in the colder months as it does in the warmer months.

Sincerely,

Joel Panozzo
Co-Owner of The Lunch Room