

6/27/2013

To Sarah DeWitt, Market Manager,  
Public Market Advisory Commission,  
Parks and Recreation Services  
Unit Manager Colin Smith,

My name is Kathy Melmoth a farmer and vendor (along with my husband Dave), at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market for 24 years.

I am deeply concerned and saddened and frankly, upset that Karl Newvurth a long time farmer at the Ann Arbor Market, has lost his seniority at the market due to a mistake in getting his application in on time.

Karl has 60 years of supporting the Ann Arbor Market. He was suffering health and financial difficulties when the sudden change in the application process and due date was announced. Karl's 60 years of knowledge and wisdom of produce farming would be lost to the market and his customers if he loses his seniority. The new market rules do allow a dismissed vendor to start all over again (on the side walk with one stall) and begin to build up seniority again; but for a long established grower, without 3 stalls, that is financially and physically impossible.

In past decades at the Ann Arbor Farmer's market there has been a history of Market Managers working with farmers in difficult situations. For myself, I think that losing one's seniority for what amounts to a missed clerical deadline and not something more serious is a very extreme and harmful position for the market management to take. Why not a suspension or better, an attempt to work with the grower?

It has long been recognized by the City of Ann Arbor, the market customers and the shops at Kerrytown and other local businesses that the farmers who sell at the Farmer's Market provide a unique service to all.

I would like to respectfully ask that given all the changes in the market and its administration, the market manager would reconsider this decision and allow Karl to maintain his market seniority and market stalls.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Melmoth *Kathy Melmoth*

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