



Kerrytov
DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION

**2016 Board
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Market & Shops

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Deanna Relyea
Kerrytown
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North Central
Neighborhood
Association

Grace Singleton
Zingerman's

Marci Tuzinsky
Community High
School

June 1, 2016

Ann Arbor City Council
Ann Arbor Planning Commission
Larcom City Hall
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Members of City Council and Planning Commission:

As members of the Kerrytown District Association board of directors representing our business and neighborhood area, we are writing to express our interest in participating in the planning process as projects in the district are considered and implemented.

We write now as we hear that the infrastructure project proposed in the Farmers Market comes to Planning Commission in July. This enclosed 4,000 square foot building will serve the market through the winter months and expand the area for use by vendors. We are glad that there is interest in investing in the market and increasing infrastructure available to the vendors for the summer, and allowing a more diverse group of vendors through the winter. Although we see the need and the potential benefit of this project, we are concerned about the impact the changes to the parking capacity will have on our district.

The KDA board and its members would like to see a thorough examination of the effects such a project will have on the business activity of the neighborhood. For instance, the biggest effect we see is on the availability of parking for our businesses on the other 5 days and evenings of the week. The building (as currently planned) will eliminate at least 20 parking spots. Because we currently see the availability of parking in our area as already a serious problem, the elimination of parking in what is the principle resource for our patrons raises real concerns.

We feel that a short and long term plan to solve this overall shortage of access to parking in our area should be part of the approval of any plan for the Farmers Market area. The current plan exacerbates an already problematic situation.

We are also concerned about the future use of the Farmers Market for private events during the year and would like to meet with the appropriate planners to formulate policy that supports the area's business activity. We have seen these events cause disruption in the neighborhood; interfering with our efforts to grow our "night life" in the area as we seek to attract restaurants and other entertainment options.

We would like to work with the project developers and city planners to formulate a plan for the retaining and development of real parking in our neighborhood and are ready to participate in a continuation of the planning process for this current Farmers Market project along with future planning for our area.

We ask that the planning process continue and involve a study of its effects on the commercial health of the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Deanna Relyea, President
On behalf of the Kerrytown District Association Board Members