

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Advisory Commission & City Council
FROM: Public Market Advisory Commission
DATE: May 21, 2015
RE: Use of Assigned Fund Balance of the General Fund for the Purpose of the Farmers Market Infrastructure Improvement Project

Attached is the Public Market Advisory Commission (PMAC) resolution in support of the use of market funds previously held as a fund balance in the Market Enterprise Fund and now designated as assigned fund balance in the General Fund. These funds are proposed for use for the purpose of Farmers Market infrastructure improvements focused on a new market structure to expand vendor stall capacity year-round.

The Market accumulated a fund balance during the time it operated as an Enterprise Fund. When the decision was made to move the Market to the General Fund this fund balance was designated as assigned fund balance in the General Fund, to be used for the purpose of improving the Market.

As of June 30, 2014, the last audited financial statement date, the total amount of Market assigned fund balance available was \$473,914.00.

PMAC supports the use of \$350,000.00 of these funds to be used in conjunction with \$100,000.00 in previously approved park millage funds and \$129,000.00 in developer contributions earmarked in the developer agreement for 413 E. Huron for the Market Infrastructure Improvement Project and recommends that the Parks Advisory Commission and City Council approve the use of assigned fund balance in the General Fund for the Market Infrastructure Improvement Project.

We consider this use of funds to best serve the market's vendors, customers and staff as the market evolves and continues to provide a critical outlet for local food in our community and serves as a central community gathering space throughout the year. This project reflects the City's commitment to supporting local farmers, artisans and food businesses while continuing to provide access to the full diversity of our local community to shop at the market.

We support city staff in moving forward with the market project first identified in the City's Capital Improvement Plan, which identified the need to improve winter capacity at the Farmers Market. We also intend this project to realize improved stall space for the market's vendors in all seasons.

We consider this project to reflect the priorities of PMAC, which has advocated for the expansion and improvement of market infrastructure for winter purposes. Additionally, we support Parks & Recreation Services in its commitment to improving this park space within the downtown area of the City of Ann Arbor.

RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR
THE PURPOSE OF THE ANN ARBOR FARMERS MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Whereas, The market provides fresh, local food to the Ann Arbor community year-round;

Whereas, The design and construction of a new market structure to expand vendor stall capacity year-round project reflects the City's commitment to supporting local farmers, artisans and food businesses while continuing to providing access to the full diversity of our local community to shop at the market.

Whereas, City Staff have sought input from market customers and vendors regarding priorities for market improvements and have aligned this project with the input received;

Whereas, This project reflects the priorities of the Commission, which has advocated for the expansion and improvement of market infrastructure for winter purposes.

RESOLVED, That the Public Market Advisory Commission supports the use of \$350,000.00 in assigned fund balance in the General Fund for this project.

RESOLVED, That the Public Market Advisory Commission recommends that the Parks Advisory Commission and City Council approve use of these funds for the Market Infrastructure Improvement Project.