

TO: City Council

Through: Jeff Caldwell, City Marshall

Stacy Wright, Environmental Health Manager

FROM: Cliff Caskey, President San Marcos Farmers Market

DATE: 7 March 2019

SUBJECT: Farmers' Market Vender Fees

The San Marcos Farmers Market Association is in favor of the proposed ordinance for the Food Establishment Division 5-Certified Farmers' Market Vendors.

Our concern is the annual \$101.50 vendors permit fee. Our market vendors are very small producers and this permit fee would increase their overhead encouraging them to find other sales avenues.

The farmers market exists as a place where local people could buy fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, and eggs from local farmers. Our market is symbiotic for producers and San Marcos residents.

The San Marcos Farmers' Market Association suggests the following alternative vendor fee structures:

- a) \$10.00 permit fee per vendor
- b) \$100.00 blanket fee for the market covering all vendors requiring permits
- c) No fee-but vendors needing a permit would be required to apply and qualify for a permit

We endorse the formalization of sanitary food handling practices but are concerned with the increased overhead cost for small producers and their continued participation in the market.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Caskey", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cliff Caskey, President San Marcos Farmers Market