

PETITION TO RESCIND FARMERS' MARKET EXTENDED HOURS

We, the undersigned, petition the City Council and Mayor of Alexandria to reconsider and rescind its current decision to extend the hours of the Farmers' Market on Saturdays to 2:00 P.M. Traditionally this market has opened at 5:00 AM and closed at 9:30 AM. We acknowledge that this decision was based on well intentioned premise to create a greater crowd of people during the day. Actually, a detrimental scenario will occur.

According to the City Manager there are over 100 vendors registered at the Market. This is 100 parking spaces not available to shoppers during the day. Our random survey on Saturdays has indicated that the free parking under City Hall is already filled to capacity by 11:00 AM. It is also apparent to concerned merchants that shoppers at the Market are not the predominant percentage who make for a successful retail day.

Unfortunately, none of the businesses, which have signed below, were consulted on this move. We and our employees will be seriously affected by the loss of income. Please rescind the extended Farmers Market hours.

Courtney Bonnet	THE LILLY PAD 103 S. SAINT ASAPH ST.	703. 518. 15459
Paul Williamson	Buchanan + Kignel	703-549-4322
Donna McEntyre	Today's Cargo ³¹⁵ cameron	703 836-6866
TARER. MOURALL	PITA House	703-684-9194
Babs MacMahon	THE Silver Parrot LTD.	703- 8 549-8530
Jay York	WINTERTHUR	703-684-6092
KATE SCHLABACH	WHY NOT INC	703-548-4420
Ethel Beun	Unique	703-836-6686
Stanley Budget	WILFRED-RIDGERS	703-548-4543
Russell R. R. R.	Olsson's Books	703-684-0030
Susan Hogan	Principle Gallery ^{200 King St}	703-739-9326
Sybil	P+C ART, Inc. ^{200 Boll} King St.	(703) 549-2528
Alan Wain	Aircraft Collection ^{King} St.	(703) 880-4863
Pierre Gonsler	The Icon Gallery ^{14c. King} St.	(703) 739-0700
AKA Khalsa	Khalsa Jewelers ^{King} St.	(703) 838-0588
Paula Krenon	The Virginia Shop ^{Venue}	(703) 836-3160
Ligia Hernandez	Firehawk Bakery ^{Venue}	(703) 519-8021
Per Huse-Jensen	Bowhe & Reare ^{St. Asaph}	703. 518-9900
Maria Beke	The Pewter Chalice 408 King St.	703- 5 49-6025
Babu Lugo	OLD WARSAW. Gullia's 319. CAMERON ST, ALEX VA	(703) 548-9185
JZ	JUST VACATIONS 501 King St ALEX	703 8380040

Nancy Ruess Pollard	LA Cuisine	703-886-4435
Cybil	EUROPEAN ACCENTS	(703) 548-1581
Caitlin Gage	Nuevo Mundo	(703) 549-0040
Patricia A Rafuse	Donna Lewis	703-548-2452
Suzanne Anderson	MARY McLAUGHLIN, LTD	703-683-3760
Maria Cecile	Blue Cottage	703-683-0028
Rebecca Burns	Kit + Caboodle	703/684-1023
Selam Yilma	Penelope's Vanity	703/683-3505
Judy Shavin	Scriptorium	703-549-2880
Max	THE ANTIQUE GUILD	(703) 836-1048
Sam Melvin	Wisteria	(703) 548-3111
Portia (aka) Mary Ann	Accessories Unlimited	(703) 683-1191
SERDAR BASEGMEZ	ET CETERA	(703) 299-9092
Amadea Leiser	Gossypia	703-836-6969
Betty L. Nestor	Elder Crafts	703-683-4338

CAMERON STREET MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

Monday, November 12, 2001

Open letter to the City Council

On Nov 1, we read in the Port Packet that the Alexandria Farmers' Market would be open until 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

There was no concensus about the impact that this would have on the businesses in Alexandria, and it appears that it was an arbitrary decision by the City government.

The point of view of the City of Alexandria is that crowds create a salutary effect on business. That is not the case. There is a contradiction when the City generously offers free parking for shoppers but the space is taken by the vendors at the Market.

If the City government had contacted the owners of many shops on Cameron, Fairfax, and Royal Streets, as well as the shops on Upper King and Washington Street, you would have been told that only the businesses catering to the casual stroller will benefit.

All businesses have been affected by the events of September 11. While the Alexandria City Government thought they were creating an atmosphere to assist small business, they are doing just the opposite.

Of course, Cameron Street is impacted at great expense because of its proximity to the Market. Many of these shops focus their advertising toward the weekend customer. It is not cost effective to ask customers to visit Old Town if there is no place for them to park.

We respectfully request the extended times for the Saturday Market by rescinded effective immediately so that our principal retail day is not destroyed, especially before Christmas.

Mary Martin

Mary McLaughlin Clothing

Stephanie Melvin
Wisteria Flowers

Maria O'Leary
Nuevo Mundo

Donna McIntyre
Today's Cargo

Nancy Pollard
La Cuisine - The Cook's Resource

Amanda Lasker
Gossypia

Cyrus Amedi
European Accents

Chris Lewis
Donna Lewis Clothing

Judy Shavin
Scriptorium

Betty Nestor
Elder Crafters

Tarek Moukalled
Pita House

cc to City Manager
Charlotte Hall