



## **The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998**  
Fairfax County Planning Commission  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 330  
Fairfax, VA 22035

July 29 2013

Supervisor Gerald Hyland, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
Earl Flanagan, Fairfax County Planning Commissioner  
Linwood Gorham, Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Dear Sirs:


Subject: MVCCA Resolution on Belle View Community Farmers Market

On behalf of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) the enclosed resolution is forwarded for your consideration. The reasons for the resolution are many, however, the most outstanding include:

- Multiple surveys including the latest resident feasibility survey indicated the majority of respondents were interested in a farmers market at or around the area of Belle View. See especially item 9 of the WHEREAS clauses of the resolution.
- The area is convenient for shoppers (and accessible to the physically challenged), has adequate parking, and, provides pedestrian safety.
- More space is available for farmers and promotes expanded business opportunities for the Belle View community and the Mount Vernon District.

The resolution supports a farmers market at the Belle View shopping center area; and, allowed to operate under conditions similar to other farmers' markets in Fairfax County.

The MVCCA Resolution on Belle View Community Farmers Market was voted upon by the MVCCA General Council Membership on July 25, 2013, and passed unanimously

  
Christopher Low  
Co-Chair, MVCCA

Cc: James Davis, MVCCA Co-Chair  
Gretchen Walzl, MVCCA Co-Chair  
Queenie Cox, MVCCA Chair Consumer Affairs  
Betsy Martin, MVCCA Chair Environment & Recreation

## **MVCCA (COAF-2013-02) Resolution on Belle View Community Farmers Market**

1. WHEREAS a farmers market provides healthy fresh locally grown produce; and
2. WHEREAS consumers want to support local farmers and the environment; and
3. WHEREAS there are approximately 81-authorized farmers/vendors participating in Fairfax County Park Authority's supervised locally grown producer only market system; and
4. WHEREAS the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers market only has the capacity to allow 11-vendors; and
5. WHEREAS a farmers market is about community and not just the community in which one particular farmers market operates; and
6. WHEREAS the Belle View Merchants Association expressed an interest in hosting a farmers market in the Belle View Shopping Center (BVSC); and
7. WHEREAS the BVSC has been used in the past for community use (i.e., selling of Christmas trees and wreaths by a local high school and fruit by a non-profit organization); and
8. WHEREAS a feasibility survey was conducted to determine whether or not a farmers market should be in the BVSC parking lot; and
9. WHEREAS out of the 756 responses to the feasibility survey, 685 responded "yes" to support a farmers market established in Belle View compared to 71 who responded "no;" and
10. WHEREAS a majority of the feasibility survey respondents preferred a farmers market on Saturdays, a day that would not compete with the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers market that operates on Wednesdays; and
11. WHEREAS a farmers market in the BVSC is in a high vehicular and pedestrian traffic area that is bounded by two major roads—Belle View Blvd and Ft. Hunt Road; and
12. WHEREAS a farmers market in the BVSC:
  - is convenient for shoppers;
  - has adequate parking;
  - is handicapped accessible;
  - minimizes traffic and pedestrian safety challenges;
  - may allow expansion to accommodate many more stalls for farmers; and
  - promotes expanded business relationships within the Mount Vernon community; and
13. WHEREAS the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance (Zoning Ordinance) issues a temporary special permit for a temporary farmers market; and
14. WHEREAS the Zoning Ordinance dictates the requirements for a farmers market.
  - A. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations fully supports a farmers market in the Belle View Shopping Center and it should be allowed to operate under similar conditions as other farmers' markets in Fairfax County.

***Unanimously Approved by MVCCA on July 24, 2013***