



# City Council Agenda Item Report

March 5, 2013

## Agenda Item No.

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**Subject: Deliberation and possible action on a request by the Buda Downtown Farmers' Market Association to host a Buda Downtown Farmers' Market on City owned property located north of the public restrooms on Main Street, or between City Hall and the water tower.**

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### 1. Background / History

The Buda Downtown Farmers' Market Association is a non-profit organization comprised of Downtown Merchant business owners and other Buda citizens who feel that the Downtown Buda area would benefit greatly from a Farmers' Market. The mission of the Buda Downtown Farmers' Market is to serve as a community gathering place where local farmers, producers, and artisans can offer fresh agricultural and related products to generate a sense of local pride and further the economic development of Downtown Buda.

Market Manager Jennifer Denton approached the City with an idea of utilizing City owned property to start a Buda Downtown Farmers' Market in September of 2010. The City Council approved site for the Farmers' Market was in the public parking lot and grass area on the north side of the public restroom facility off of FM 967/Main Street across from Garcia's Mexican Restaurant. This site was near the location where a farmers' market took place previously. In 2011, the Farmers' Market struggled due to the drought and low visibility of the market. Ms. Denton approached staff with an idea of moving the Farmers' Market further to the north so the market could gain more visibility from vehicular traffic going west bound and inbound on FM 967 from Interstate 35.

In 2012, the Farmers' Market located in the employee parking lot between the water tank and City Hall. While this did improve visibility, the access was limited for both vendors and customers. The Greenbelt was considered, but would require a \$150 rental fee.

### 2. FINDINGS/CURRENT ACTIVITY

For 2013, the Farmers' Market has proposed going back to their prior location near the public restrooms, across from Garcia's. This will be an interim location until their permanent facility at the Buda Mill & Grain complex is completed and accessible. Staff has suggested also approving the location used last year to provide the market flexibility.

As proposed, the Farmers' Market would operate on Saturday's beginning March 23 through October 26 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Similar to last year, the market will consist of plants, jams, herbs, baked goods, vegetables, fruits, artisan crafts and live music.



### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

In 2010-2012, there was no charge for the Buda Downtown Farmers' Market to utilize the parking lot and grass area north of the public restrooms, and between City Hall & the water tank, as there is no fee in City Ordinances associated with the use of this area. It is anticipated that Farmers' Market will generate additional sales tax dollars to the City and more visitors to the downtown area.

### 4. ACTION OPTIONS/CONSIDERATION

Staff recommends approval of the request by the Buda Downtown Farmers' Market Association to host a Buda Downtown Farmers' Market on City owned property either north of the public restrooms on Main Street, or in the employee parking lot located between north side of City Hall and the water tower off of Main Street.