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April 12, 2011

Honorable Members
Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

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C.F. 10-1832

Honorable Members:

RE: 10-1832 – PROTEST/OPPOSITION - ALLOWING FARMERS' MARKETS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING

I hereby join Mr. J. H. McQuiston of McQuiston Associates in opposing any approval of farmers' markets in Residential Zoning in the City of Los Angeles. The noise, traffic, trespassing, litter, additional parking on residential streets, plus sanitation and rodent/insect infestation that occurs as a result of these events should be limited to commercial/agricultural districts.

As the owner of a home and income property which is adjacent to a parking lot where a nonprofit produce giveaway was allowed, I can personally attest that the problems which are created totally destroy the quality of life, safety and peaceful enjoyment of property. After demanding that this stop under threat of legal action several months ago, I and my tenants are still trying to rid our properties of rats and cockroaches which appeared as a result of the boxes of food that were brought in and the garbage which was left by customers.

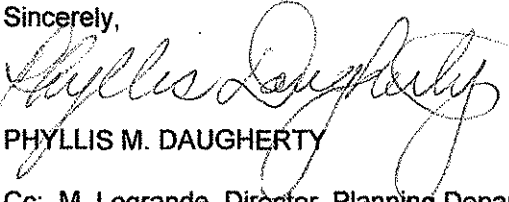
If anyone on the Council believes that "farmers" from areas outside the city or even within the city limits have a "right" to bypass obtaining a special permit to hold their sales anywhere, then I would suggest that you allow farmers' markets to be held next door to your own residence. There should be no allowance for permitting these businesses on public or private property in residential zoning, other than for a single permitted charitable event—not for the purpose of conducting business, either for profit or nonprofit (which also makes money).

Farmers markets are already plentiful throughout the city in business areas. They compete with local business struggling to maintain viability in a tough economy and to meet the strict city business permitting, tax structure, licensing and county health requirements that are circumvented by "farmers," who may or may not grown their produce within the city of Los Angeles.

The Planning Department report takes these factors into consideration and promises protection for residential communities. They are to be commended for their effort to preserve the sanctity, cleanliness, peace and freedom from invasion by businesses in our neighborhoods. Even with notification for 500 feet, such businesses should not be allowed. There are ample places in commercial and agricultural zoning where farmers may sell their produce without interfering with the daily life of residential communities.

We urge all Council/committee members to vote "NO" on CF 10-1832 and by-right approval of this activity under any circumstance.

Sincerely,



PHYLLIS M. DAUGHERTY

Cc: M. Logrande, Director, Planning Department