
FW: Previous Planning Commission Meeting Agenda Item: Sunday Farmers Market Expansion

From City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Date Mon 8/3/2026 12:08 PM

To Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Cc Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>; John Jay <jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Jane Riley <jriley@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Oriana Hart <ohart@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Erik Billing <ebilling@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Sean McDonagh <smcdonagh@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Andrew Bauer <abauer@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Please see email submitted to the City of Sebastopol

BCC:Email BCC to City Council and City Attorney

City staff who have also received this email are included into the CC as shown above.

Mary Gourley

City Manager

For your security, all official communications from the City of Sebastopol will only originate from email addresses ending in "@cityofsebastopol.gov". City staff do not use personal email accounts or any variation of the City's domain for official correspondence. Messages sent from any other email domain should not be considered legitimate.

From: Breanna Christenson [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 12:03 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>; ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org; Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Subject: Previous Planning Commission Meeting Agenda Item: Sunday Farmers Market Expansion

Dear Mayor, Members of the City Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the proposed expansion of the Sebastopol Farmers Market, I understand there was a PLanning Meeting about this on the 28th last month however I only became aware after reading the article from the Sebastopol Times. The Farmers Market is an important part of our community, and I am excited to see it grow and continue contributing to the energy and vitality of downtown Sebastopol.

However, I believe the expansion should also include a thoughtful review of the existing pedestrian crossing signal on the east side of Town Square. This is a relatively new signal installed by Caltrans, and in my experience and that of my Sunday clients as well, it has been confusing for both drivers and pedestrians. Its operation and visual design are unlike any of the other pedestrian crossings in town, and there is a concerning level of uncertainty about when vehicles are expected to stop and when pedestrians are expected to cross, especially with the heavier traffic flows that Sundays bring to Sebastopol.

The resulting hesitation and unexpected stopping can and has been seen to create significant traffic backups near the intersection of both Hwy 12 and Hwy 116 that pass through Sebastopol. With the proposed Farmers Market expansion likely to increase pedestrian activity in the area, these existing concerns may become even more pronounced.

I support the Farmers Market expansion and respectfully ask the City Council to work with Barbara Hom and the Sebastopol Farmers Market (possible even Sebastopol Police) to consider whether additional signage, clearer pedestrian instructions, signal modifications, or market-day traffic management could improve safety and traffic flow.

The goal should not be to reduce pedestrian safety, but to ensure that both pedestrians and drivers can clearly understand how the crossing is intended to operate while keeping traffic moving safely through downtown.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Breanna Christenson

Sebastopol Resident and Business Owner