FYI and for the record  Thanks

From: Ann Foster [mailto:annfoster5093@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:42 PM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Re: Letter to you, Councilors and Mark McCauley

Oops! So sorry here it is This one is from me, the one a few days ago was written by the Food System Council

Best,
Ann

On Wed, Jun 15, 2016 at 3 36 PM, Orjiako, Oliver <Oliver Orjiako@clark wa.gov> wrote.

Hello Ann

There is no letter attached Your previous letter was forwarded to all the Councilors Thank you very much for your interest in Clark County Planning process

Best regards,

Oliver

From: Ann Foster [mailto:annfoster5093@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Letter to you, Councilors and Mark McCauley
Dear Oliver,

I will not be able to get to the hearing on June 21, it is the opening day of the farmers market at Legacy Hospital.

I am submitting my letter regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update. Can you forward to the Councilors and to County Manager McCauley, please?

Thank you!

Best,

Ann Foster

This e-mail and related attachments and any response may be subject to public disclosure under state law.
June 12, 2016

Dear Council Chair Boldt, Councilors Olson, Stewart, Madore and Mielke,

County Manager McCauley and Community Planning Director Orijacco,

I am the organizer of the two Salmon Creek Farmers Markets, the only two markets in unincorporated Clark County. Camas, Vancouver, Ridgefield (and Woodland) markets fall within cities and, as such, partner with those entities, the cities provide support and, in some cases, financial support. The Salmon Creek markets are fully supported by local businesses, grants and the community. Our labor is 90% volunteer and are site locations are donated. We are blessed to have been nurtured by Marc Boldt back in 2010, and have received the assistance of Clark County Public Works on several occasions. And we are pleased to have the support of our new District 2 Councilor Julie Olson. I thank you for that.

My interest here is here to add my voice, and the voices of my vendors and customers, to the many in Clark County who support the recommendations of the Planning Commission as we enter the final hours of the Comprehensive Plan Update. I work closely with 18 farm vendors and more farmers who are not vendors — and they do NOT want parcelization or clustering, they are NOT members of CCCU and they do NOT have any similarities with CCCU members. They are doing what they want with their land, they fear development, increased taxes, drying wells — their rights are important, too.

Preserving productive agriculture land is imperative to our county growth, our health and to our future. Farming is a way of life and is a source of income for many. Specialty crop farming, producing vegetable, fruit and nut products that are sold largely through direct marketing channels locally, keeps local dollars within the local economy and keeps freight and transportation costs down. Locally produced food is found to be safer than commercially produced food.

Food, food production, food processing and a food hub have to be considered as essential in a Comprehensive Growth Plan. If it doesn’t exist within a vision for the county for the next 20 years, then where else would it be? Standards have to be set, goals made, strategies developed and tactics implemented — and food production has to be part of that conversation.

Please show leadership for the community, its safety, its health and its quality of life. Decide on no changes in 2016, keep the 2012 Growing Healthier report in the Update as a foundation for a secure food system going forward.

Best regards,

Ann Foster,

Organizer, Salmon Creek Farmers’ Markets and Washington State Farmers Market Association board member

Member, Clark County Food System Council

Board, Friends of Clark County