

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(10)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: November 20, 2007

TITLE: Request from the Farmers' Market for Year Round Use of the Town Commons

DEPARTMENT: Economic and Community Development	PUBLIC HEARING: YES or <u>NO</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A - Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: James R. Harris, Director, Economic and Community Development 918-7319

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to present to the Board of Aldermen a request from the Carrboro Farmers' Market to increase the use of the Town Commons facility from a seasonal market to a year round market.

INFORMATION

The farmers have studied the idea of increasing the number of market days to year round. In the past the seasonal market has been very productive, not only for the farmers but the Town of Carrboro citizens and commercial establishments. The Farmers' Market provides fresh vegetables, plants, crafts and other food products for our citizens. It also serves as a marketing tool for the Town as the Market has received national recognition as a model for a well-run enterprise.

The farmers are producing more winter crops and meat products that can be sold year round and would like the opportunity to do so.

The annual number of hours reserved by the Farmers' Market at the Town Commons will rise from 520 hours to 608 hours, a 17% increase. This proposed change would also increase the annual rate paid by the Farmers' Market for that use from \$2,000 to \$2,340, also a 17% increase.

The new hours of use would be from January to December (i.e. year-round) on Saturdays from 5:30am until 2:30pm and on Wednesdays, April through October from 2:30pm until 7:30pm.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be a slight increase in revenue to the Town for the use of the Town Commons by the Farmers' Market.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Farmers' Market use of the Town Commons site be increased by 88 hours with an increased charge of \$340 per year. It is further requested that the manger be authorized to amend the current contract between the Farmers' Market and the Town of Carrboro to reflect this change.