

4/28/14

BALTIMORE
OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS

April 25, 2014

RE: Food Permit Fee Bill/ City Council Bill #14 0369

To the Honorable President
And Members of the Baltimore City Council:

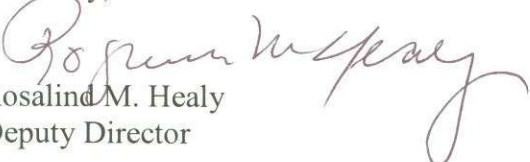
The Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts, a 501©-3 organization, is the developer and manager of the 37 year old, Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar.

The Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar is a 8 month, growers-only market with farms from around Maryland; Local family-owned, small independent restaurants; and hand-made/procured items. We are tasked with creating not only a pleasurable and safe environment for our residents and tourists, but also a profitable and enjoyable experience for all of our vendors, including the Maryland Farmers and Food Vendors.

The increase in the Health Department Annual Food Permit Fees, coupled with the seasonality of our Market (8 months vs. 12 months), created a financial hardship on our food vendors. Some of the fees jumped significantly from \$65.00 to \$285.00 or \$520.00.

We are pleased and happy to give our support to the proposed City Council Bill #14 0369 that addresses the financial concerns of our vendors and farmers by scaling the fees to fit the Baltimore Farmers' Market season.

Sincerely,


Rosalind M. Healy
Deputy Director

RMH:sl

