

8/11/08

Eric,

I have always thought the City Market was a waste of taxpayer money, and I hope you will vote to support the Market Place project, not to preserve the old City Market. The fact that unions are against the project (unless they can get their cut) is reason enough for me to support it. (If you have ever received union contributions to your campaign, I hope you swear off in the future - it seems to me a clear conflict of interest.)

Compare the City Market to Horrocks. Business is pretty slow at the City Market, even though it is open only 3 days a week. Horrocks, on the other hand, is busy 7 days a week, from early in the morning until late at night. And it succeeds without taxpayer support.

Farmers' markets do not need taxpayer support. If there really is enough demand for a multi-vendor market, someone will see the opportunity to make money and build one. Despite the romance and nostalgia attached to them, farming and farmers' markets are just businesses, and government should stay out of it.

The attached photo is of the fruit stand I ran - without government support - for 6 summers starting the summer before my senior year in high school.

Steve Harry