



City of Cambridge

71.

IN CITY COUNCIL
April 27, 1998

COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Low income people eligible for Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) are allowed only \$10.00 per person, \$5.00 per elderly person for the entire Farmers' Market season (more than five months total) and;

WHEREAS: Study after study cites the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables to general good health, and in particular for healthy childhood development and preventative health care for the elderly; and

WHEREAS: The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is a good beginning towards improving the diets and nutritional knowledge of our population and has the additional benefit of supporting our states agriculture and especially small farmers; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record supporting increased funding for the FMNP to allow an annual allocation of \$50.00 per person in future years; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council express its support to our local state representative and senators of an additional \$62,245 for the FY 98 FMNP to leverage an additional \$141,198 that the USDA has awarded Massachusetts for this very important program. (Note this a line item in Appropriation 2511-0100 at the MM Subsidiary)

In City Council April 27, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

April 7, 1998

#71

[This is a copy of a letter sent to all members of the House or Senate Ways and Means Committees]

Senator/Representative
Senate/House Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senator/House Representative

At a recent meeting on community food security, representatives of almost two dozen anti-hunger, food, nutrition and agriculture organizations in the Greater Boston area addressed expansion of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). The following organizations express their strong support for the FMNP and are asking the Massachusetts legislature to appropriate an additional \$62,245 for FY98 for this program. This money is needed as matching funds to leverage an additional \$141,198 that USDA has awarded Massachusetts for this program. Specifically, this funding is a line item in Appropriation 2511-0100 at the MM Subsidiary.

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is a federal/state funded program running in more than 30 states this year, and it was started in 1986 by the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture. It proved so popular that year that several other states quickly developed state-funded programs based on the Massachusetts model, and Massachusetts spearheaded the effort to make this a federally-funded program. USDA began sponsorship of the FMNP in 1989, and has since run it as a 70/30 federal/state funded program; i.e., states must provide 30% of total program funds to receive the other 70% from USDA.

Throughout the history of this program, Massachusetts has typically taken advantage of all the federal funds available. For fiscal year 1998, Congress appropriated an additional \$3 million nationwide, and MDFA applied for an additional \$141,198 above the \$512,062 it received in FY97. This will allow Massachusetts to provide coupons to an additional 37,661 WIC participants. But it requires the Massachusetts Legislature to appropriate the required match, equal to \$62,245.

We feel that the FMNP has been a very beneficial program for Massachusetts farmers, for WIC participants, and for other low-income households, including elders. Last year, almost three hundred farmers participated in the program at 98 farmers' markets. Not only has this program helped these farmers to remain in agriculture, but it has been critical to the viability of many of the farmers' markets located in low-income communities. At the same time, the FMNP last year provided nutritional benefits in the form of fresh, local produce to 86,000 WIC families and to over 25,000 elders and other low-income households. As you know, most low-income households do not consume recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables, which are so important for a nutritious diet.

We feel the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is an excellent program for our farmers and for our citizens, and it makes good financial sense for the Commonwealth to leverage these additional federal dollars. We thank you for your support for the FMNP over the past decade and hope you will back an increase in state funds this year to expand this important program.

The FMNP is operated by the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture (MDFA) in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. For additional information, contact David Webber at MDFA at 727-3018 x 179.

(71)



Born Order #5

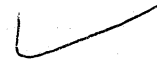
Whereas: Low income people eligible for FMNP coupons (Farmers Market Nutrition Program) are allowed only \$10 per person, \$5 per elderly person for the entire Farmers' Market season (more than 5 months total) and

Whereas Study after study cites the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables to general good health, and in particular for healthy childhood development and preventative health care for the elderly. and

Whereas The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is a good beginning towards improving the diets and nutritional knowledge of our population and has the additional benefit of supporting our state's agriculture and especially small farmers therefore be it

Ordered That the Cambridge City Council supporting increased funding for the FMNP to allow an annual allocation of \$50 per person in future years and be it further

(71)



Ordered That the City Council express its support to our local state representatives + senators of an additional \$62,245 for the FY 98 FMNP to leverage an additional \$41,198 that the USDA has awarded Massachusetts for this very important program. (Note this a line item in Appropriation 2511-0100 at the NM Subsidiary)

(see attached sample letter)

April 7, 1998

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Senate/House Ways and Means Committee

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COUNCILLOR BORN

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Consent Order #71

S-304

Councillor Born re: City Council
supports increased funding for the
Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP).

In City Council April 27, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED