

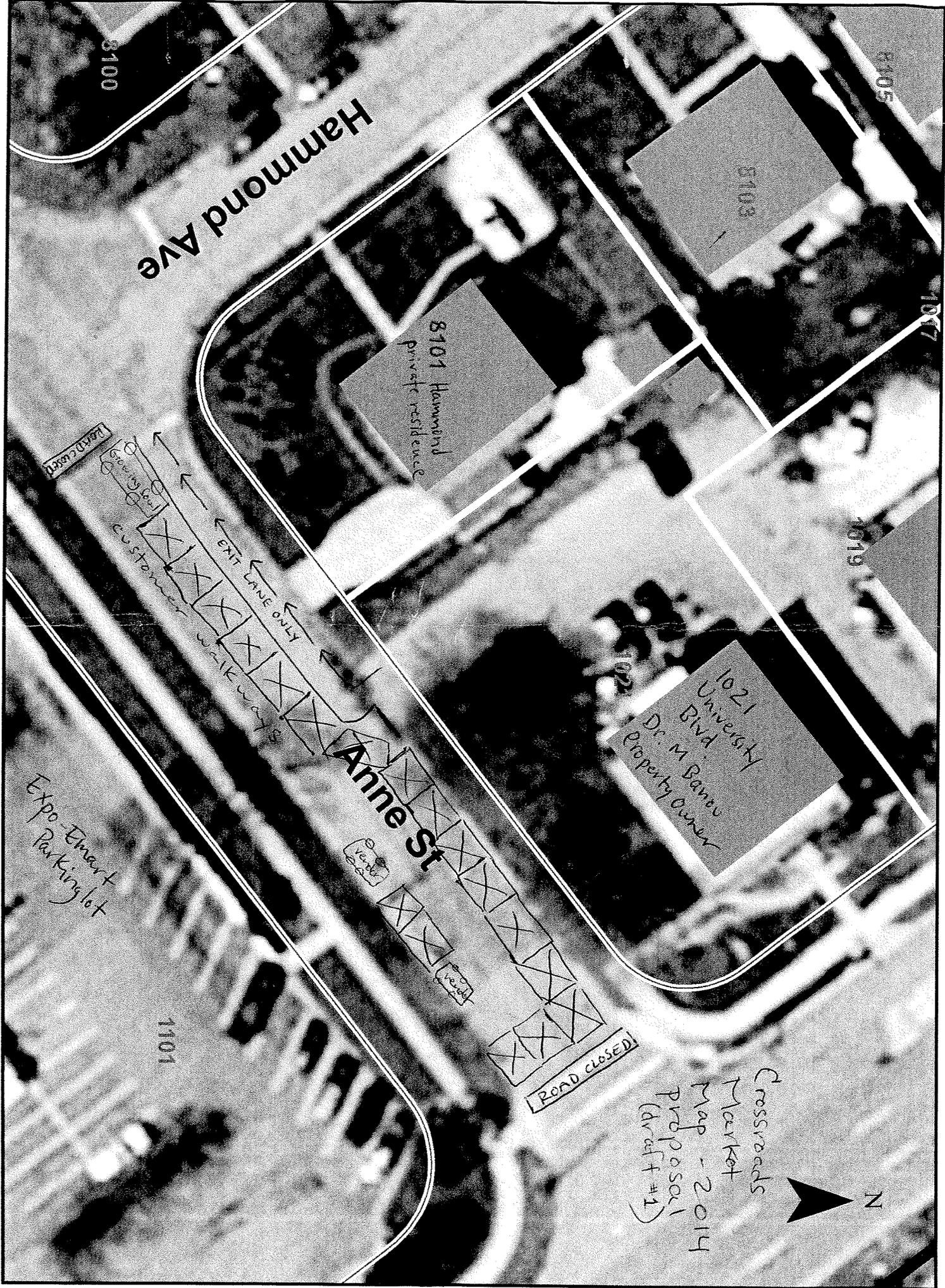
Work Session

Agenda Item #	4
Meeting Date	January 13, 2014
Prepared By	Roz Grigsby, Community Development Coordinator
Approved By	Brian Kenner, City Manager

Discussion Item	Crossroads Farmers Market Request to Close Anne Street between Hammond Avenue and University Boulevard on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from May to November
Background	<p>The Crossroads Community Food Network, which began in 2007, provides access to fresh foods from local vendors to people from all backgrounds and incomes living in the neighborhoods of the Takoma Park/Langley Park Crossroads. Their mission is to expand access to local, healthy, and affordable foods in an effort to increase informed food choices for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads through the operation of a community-based farmers market.</p> <p>Recently the Crossroads Market has been operating on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., from May to November, in the parking lot behind the office building at 7676 New Hampshire Avenue. The site has presented some problems in terms of customer safety and market visibility.</p> <p>Therefore the Market is looking for a new location for the 2014 season and future seasons. After considering many sites in the vicinity of the Crossroads and New Hampshire Avenue, the Market staff identified Anne Street as the most viable location. The proposal is to close one block of Anne Street from the intersection of University Boulevard to Hammond Avenue. One exit lane would be kept open to allow traffic from the parking lot of 1021 University to exit southwest on Anne Street.</p> <p>The Police Department conducted a traffic survey of Anne Street during mid-day hours. The survey indicated that closing the intersection of Anne and University would not present problems for local traffic. The survey also identified available street parking in the area that could serve vendors and customers. In addition, Market staff has contacted affected property owners and is working with them to reduce any negative impact.</p> <p>If Council supports the closure of Anne Street for the Crossroads Market, staff will prepare a resolution for Council consideration on January 27.</p>
Policy	<p>“To ensure a Takoma Park that is fiscally, environmentally and economically sustainable.”</p> <p>“To create and maintain a livable community that is vibrant, healthy, and safe for all of its residents.”</p> <p><i>City of Takoma Park Strategic Plan (FY2010-FY2015)</i></p>
Fiscal Impact	N/A

Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map of proposed site• Comments from Councilmember Fred Schultz
Recommendation	Discuss the proposed closure of Anne Street for the Crossroads Farmers Market.
Special Consideration	

Crossroads Market needs space for 18-10x10 tents,



Hammond Ave

Anne St

8101 Hammond
private residence

1021 University Blvd
Dr. M Bantu
Property Owner

8100

8405

1087

1019

1101



Crossroads Market
Map - 2014
proposal
(draft #1)

Expo-Emart
Parking lot

ROAD CLOSED

Security level
CUSTOMER
EXIT LANE ONLY
walk ways

ROAD CLOSED

Jessie Carpenter - Re: Farmer's market

From: fred schultz <fshultz@starpower.net>
To: Bruce Williams <brucewtakoma@gmail.com>
Date: 1/2/2014 1:52 PM
Subject: Re: Farmer's market

Bruce:

For the record since I will not be attending the January 13 council meeting, I fully support any Council action regarding support for the relocation of the Crossroads Farmers Market from its prior location (in the back parking lot of the 7676 Professional Bldg on NH Ave) to Anne Street between University Blvd and Hammond Street (approximately) in a manner that will allow the Market to occupy the full right-of-way for the set up, operation and take down of the Market on every Wednesday of the year for approximately six hours.

I support a carve out of one lane that will allow vehicles exiting the commercial parking lot at the rear of 1021 University Blvd (a commercial property) and 8101 Hammond (a residence) to turn right (west bound) onto Anne Street.

Both the City's DPW and the TPPD have been consulted by Michelle Dudley (with my assistance) and are fully aware of the proposed relocation. The owner of 1021 University Blvd, Dr. Banou, says she has 6 commercial tenants in her building, which she recently purchased and to which she has made physical upgrades inside and out. Dr. Banou's concerns are for ease of access and exit for users of the parking lot (which joins the lots to the rear of the adjacent commercial properties), for the safety of pedestrians, and for the cleanliness of her property. I assured Dr. Banou that I would want the same thing and I would help to assure that her property would be treated in the manner she seeks. Michelle Dudley provided the same assurances.

The advantage of the relocation is, first, that the existing location is untenable for a variety of reasons. The Market's survival probably depends on its finding a more suitable site. The Anne Street site will provide far more visibility and much easier access for vendors and customers alike. It will have more space for more vendors. It will be physically more comfortable for everyone. The site will be quite near the existing customers who patronize the Market. Anne Street itself carries very few vehicles overall and infrequent vehicle movements especially during the afternoon hours of the Market. My view is that access to the neighborhood by residents will not be inconvenienced as there are other close-by points of entry. The street does not serve public transportation.

All in all, it is an ideal location for the Market that should allow the Market to prosper, which is important to the City. The Market staff looked carefully at a number of alternative sites. None has the advantages of the proposed Anne Street site.

Fred