

Why are we asking Not to Amend the Definition of “Street Frontage”.

Downtown Visalia has a Long Standing Tradition of Hosting a Farmers Market for over 40 years.

Farmer’s Markets are a Community, & Community is what turns a town, into A Hometown.

The proposed definition is unfairly targeting the DownTown Visalia Certified Farmers Market despite the support of 100% of Street level retailers within the market closure area, and 95% of the tenants we have contacted in the Bank of Italy Building.

The DownTown Visalia Certified Farmers Market is a continuation of a long standing and beloved community event in the Heart of the DownTown District. Spearheaded by a retailer within the Market area the DTV CFM has been under increasing scrutiny and adversity culminating in the forced 2 week closure of our market in late June / early July of 2023.

We have been in and out of City work session meetings, City Council meetings, Council corner meetings and community coalition building meetings & we can say with certainty that the majority of the DownTown retailer community is in support of the DownTown Market, a Long Standing Tradition



SCAN Here for Hyperlinks attached to Timeline events for Supporting Documentation

Timeline of Events Leading Up to Closure and Special Events Ordinance Changes

- 1975- Visalia Farmers Market Association (VFMA) was Established
- 1986- Thursday night Visalia Farmers Market started on Main St. in front of what was then known as Community Bank
- 1989- Thursday night Market was moved from Main St, to Church St
- October 15 2012 - [Management Agreement DTVCOV](#) the initial agreement between the City of Visalia, and the Downtown Visalians notes "The greatest events are held Downtown" includes Farmers Market
- Nov 2016- Steve Nelson Nominated as Mayor by fellow Council Members.
- March 2017- Steve Nelson becomes CEO / Executive Director of the Downtown Visalians
- Feb 20 2019 -
- Visalia Farmers Market Association board votes to end tenure at Church X Main
- April 5 2019 -
- [No More Berries & Stonefruit](#) The Downtown Visalia Farmers Market typically ran from mid-April through October. It was funded 100% by the association's farmers and received no other money from the city of Visalia, Downtown Visalians, or any other organization. Its success depended solely on sales revenue, the association said. "Sadly, we are finally at a point where we cannot continue to financially back a community event that isn't bringing in enough income to cover the basic costs," the association said.
- NOTE: Mid April - October is 29 Thursdays
- June 7 2021 -
- [Special Event Permit Length](#) email with Ryan Alcorn confirming market dates
- September 23 2021 -
- [Visalia's Historic Downtown Area Welcomes New Market](#) opening night
- September 28 2021 -
- [Special Events Permit/Farmers Market](#) email from Tracy re: complaint about cords
- October 11 2021 -
- [Amended Traffic Control Plan Application](#) application cannot be approved.
- October 14, 2021 -
- [All Street Closure Cones at DTVCOV](#) addressed by Nelson in CC meeting [Nelson on Removal of Cones](#)
- October 15 2021 -
- [April responds to Amended Traffic Control Plan Application](#) detailing conversations with Comfort Suites and neighboring business regarding signage requirements looking to start for help resolving the issue // several email exchanges follow between start and April with April offering "a pleasurable resolution to all parties qualms" and chain ends with a phone call to Leslie Blair
- October 17 2021 -
- [Updated Traffic Safety Control Plan April & Leslie exchange with new TSCP and GN](#)

November 1 2021 -

- [UpdatedSpecialEventsPermitSubmissionUpdatedTSCP&GNsubmittedtoRyanlast night](#) // April notes Comfort Suites executives (who is Property Owners Association board member) do not like the placement of the Closed to Thru Tra c barricade at Church x Acequia, can it be left out of the plan // Promise to sign from RM at BOS will update once obtained
 - [November32021-LeslieBlairfollowsuplookingfortheSignaturefromBOS](#) indicates Road Closed to Thru Tra c barricade is to remain as is a requirement
 - [November122021-AprilrespondstoemailwithsignaturefromBankofthe Sierra Regional Manager](#)

November 18 2021 -

- [EncroachmentPermitexchangeWithTracyaboutdatesapproved2021/2022wasa mistake](#), I need to reapply for 2022 and annually thereafter 12:21pm // April responds reiterating her understanding of the ask from CE. This feels unjustly di cult. 12:43pm //

November 19 2021 -

- [Tracyindicatesnextpermitandanythereafterwillbeissuedin6mincrements//that the permit can be reevaluated and any complaints received can be taken into account and corrected if necessary.](#)

December 21, 2021 -

- [SpecialEventPermit2022Permitissued](#)

March 14 2022 -

- [WineWalkPaymentreceipt](#)

March 24 2022 -

- [SocialMediaPostWineWalkindicatingFarmersMarketaparticipatinglocation](#)

April 5 2022 -

- [WineWalkConversationwithSteveaboutWineWalkParticipationDownTownMarket is excluded from participation](#)

April 15 2022 -

- [DownTownVisaliaFarmersMarketConversationwithTracyregardingPDindicating Robertshaw states FM permit not enforceable // images of Nelsen standing watch during market set up // Images of Permanent No Parking Signs on Church](#)

May 5 2022 -

- [TextMessageExchange&ImageCaristowedfrommarketclosurearea](#)

May 24 2022 -

- [Signageemailfromtracyre:permanentnoparkingsignsremovedfromChurchStreet](#)

June 15 2022 -

- [SeptEvent-ArtsNightOutinitialemailfromLaurenaskingaboutapplicationandfor clarification on what a TFF vendor is](#)

August 31 2022 -

- [ArtsNightOutParticipantAnnouncementNotincludingDTV-CFMbutincludingVFMA](#)
- August 31 2022 -
- [SeptEvent-ArtsNightOut](#) April send email f/uto Lauren asking why your application was not considered for participation // looks like a snub // requests meeting and DTV bylaws subsequently schedule meeting to discuss at DTV office on September 2 to further discuss
- September 1, 2022 -
- [QuestionforYou](#) email exchange begins with Leslie questioning the relationship of the DTV with the COV, org structure, relationship to city etc. //
- September 2, 2022 -
- [DTVArtsNightOutMeetingTranscript](#) with Nelsen re: Downtown Visalians Arts Night Out & Health Permit requirement & April's exclusion, VFMA's inclusion & Steve telling April she has a victim mentality
- September 3 2022 -
- [DocsrelatedtoDTVfromCityManager](#) including Management Agreement with DTV
- September 6 2022 -
- [RE:Questionforyou](#) April asks for all available budgets from DTV
- October 6 2022 -
- [RE:Questionforyou](#) April f/u on budgets and asks to address question with City Attorney about some information in management agreement 1:32pm
 - October 6 2022 -
 - City manager responds indicating short stated, City Clerk will follow up on budgets from DTV. Additionally that the City Attorney is the City's attorney, April will need to address questions with a personal council 1:43pm
 - October 6 2022 -
 - April responds. Outlines questions, states likely cant take those questions to the boards of POA / DTV. 2:11pm
- October 18 2022 -
- [PublicCommentforDTVBoard](#) Asking for clarification on section 10 of management agreement & Asking to share a statement with HR Director
- October 19 2022 -
- [RE:Questionforyou](#) follow up with Leslie specifically looking for annual reports, and detailed budgets from the Downtown Visalians to the City of Visalia as required in the contract between the two entities.
- October 20 2022 -
- [RE:Itisnextweek,isntit!!!](#) April and Lauren exchange about Human Resources
- January 19 2023 -
- [DowntownVisaliaCertifiedFarmersMarket\(DTV-CFM\)](#) application for 2023 received

February 9 2023 -

- [SpecialEventApplication](#) Tracy indicates: The City is currently drafting some changes to the Special Events Permit process and those changes may not allow for ongoing street closures. Based on this, we will be processing your permit for a three month period (3/23/23-6/22/23)

February 10 2023 -

- April responds to Tracy email asking how she gets involved in the conversation
- February 14 2023 -
 - Tracy responds indicating the discussion for change is presently at internal sta meetings. Once we have assessed the needs/possible changes we will reach out for community input. At that time, you will be able to provide information and/or voice your concerns.

March 2 2023 -

- [SpecialEventPermit](#) issues with hand crossed o end date

March 22 2023 -

- [DownTownSignage](#) Email exchange with Je from code enforcement re: A Framesign complaint

May 11 2023 -

- April submits new application for special events

May 15 2023 -

- [Sta Report File #: 23-0153 Agenda item # 4](#) Sta report indicates: Prior Council Action: 10/15/2012: Approval of current TCBIA Management Agreement
 - [Attachment A: TCBIA Report 2023](#)
 - [Attachment B: Revised TCBIA Management Agreement as Proposed](#)
 - [Attachment C: DTV Profit and Loss Statement 2022](#)
 - [Attachment D: DTV Balance Sheet](#)

May 15 2023 -

- [TCBIA Report VCC](#) Nels delivers reports for his regular job as president of the DownTown Visalians to the City Council. POA & TCBIA talks of desire to put a spring market that engulfs the entirety of Main street

May 23 2023 -

- April makes public comment at the Downtown Visalians Association meeting requesting ability to make Human Resources complaint // currently can only take human resources issue to the person the issue is with

May 25 2023 -

- [Screen Shot of Email from Tracy](#) Tracy indicates she has received application from May 11 indicating dates 6.23.23-10.31.23 however if approved the application will cover the timeframe from June 29-July 27 & I need signatures from every tenant on every floor of Multi Story buildings

- May 23 2023 -
 - April reply to Tracy asking why the permit will only be processed for 1m period
- May 30 2023 -
 - Special Events for DTV Certified Farmers Market Event Susan Currier confirms 3 apps
- May 30 2023 -
 - [Down Town Visalia Certified Farmers Market](#) meeting request with Mayor Poochigian
- June 2 2023 -
 - [Farmer Market Kelli Kincaid](#) introduces herself to April
- June 8 2023 -
 - Follow Up from our Meeting email to Mayor Poochigian following meeting at PK
- June 15 2023 -
 - Email Tracy (unsure of subject line only ss located) re: Permit Expiration pending / applications for the time frame till the end of October will not be processed
- June 15 2023 -
 - FW Email from Tracy to Mayor Poochigian asking how to proceed with Good Neighbor request // States will follow up with CM and get back to me. I never receive any response.
- June 22 2023 -
 - [Down Town Farmers Market Update](#) email to Mayor Poochigian asking for update on Good Neighbor petition requirements // outlines cost analysis of move to Garden Plaza, current financial outlook of the market including profitability impact // asks for update to allow me to update membership
- June 22 2023 -
 - Kelli Kincaid comes to visit the Farmers Market with proposition to partner with Parks & Rec
- June 23 2023 -
 - [Farmers Market Conversation](#) April follows up with Kelli, letting her know membership was not super receptive to a potential move to Rec Park
- June 27 2023 -
 - April attends Down Town Visalia Association meeting requesting human resources investigation
- June 28 2023 -
 - [Down Town Visalia Farmers Market Special Event Permit](#) email pleato Mayor, City Manager, Tracy Robertshaw including my argument that the application is not new, and should not require a new good neighbor petition, includes municipal code & VTD article outlining closure of VFMA DT market [No More Berries or Stone Fruit](#) "I am simply asking for the City to do what they expect their citizens to do. To comply with the laws that are in place to govern our actions."
- June 28 2023 -

- [GoodNeighbor](#) first good neighbor petition taken into Tracy/Heated discussion ensues
- June 28 2023 -
- [Freedom of Information Act Request](#) asking for video footage from lobby
- June 29 2023 -
- [April](#) engages with [Bill Hannah](#) attorney begins stalks with city
- June 29 2023 -
- [Bill Hannah](#) begins communication with City Attorney to “facilitate” application processing
- June 29 2023 -
- [Public Information Request](#) for information on the other special events with multiple street closures
- June 29 2023 -
- [Thursday Night Farmer's Market Closure](#) email from [Bill Hannah](#) 3:06pm
 - June 30 2023 -
 - [Fwd: Thursday Night Farmer's Market Closure](#) re: [Richard](#) suggests [Robertshaw](#) is out of the office [Susan Currier](#) will follow up 9:37 am
 - June 30 2023 -
 - 11:58am [Ken Richardson](#) responds to email from [BHannah](#) in part states need to complete new good neighbor
 - June 30 2023 -
 - 12:45pm [Hannah](#) responds: she submitted the good neighbor paperwork with the required neighbor signatures. This was rejected with a vague explanation. She has also requested a list of whom she is to get signatures from but has not been provided one.
- July 1 2023 -
- [Ethics Investigation](#) [April](#) asks for ethics investigation agenda item via email to council
- July 3 2023 -
- [Re: Thursday Night Farmer's Market Closure](#) [Hannah](#) receives email update from [richardsen](#) with image from social media story and photo of Bank of Italy directory, explanation that [sta](#) believes I am not using proper form as to not give the tenants the ability to sign with a no response / review of my social media postings highlighting I am amendable to changing operations as a result of conversations with neighboring businesses / acknowledgement of ethics investigation demand received 10:31 am July 3 2023 -
 - - [RE: Public Information Request - ALancaster - GNP Candy Cane Lane Parade](#)
 - July 5 2023 -

- **RE:ThursdayNightFarmersMarketClosure** permit was previously approved without using that particular form. Nor did sta tell her to use that particular form when they kept rejecting her current application. It seems to me from an objective point of view that the city is selectively enforcing their policies, which is very concerning. // the purported “false claims, wild aspersions and disparagements of City officials” on social media is clearly exaggerated on the City’s end. What my client posted is textbook protected speech. I am also deeply concerned that the City is trying to suppress my client’s protected speech with their actions, 12:30pm

July 6 2023 -

- [FW:VoiceMessagefromTel:5597868826](#) email exchange with Tracy about number of signatures collected and promises to sign / forwarded to Bill Hannah convo about DTV calendar showing thru end of october

July 6 2023 -

- April Submits Good Neighbor petitions with 67% affirmative support from neighboring businesses including all tenants in multi story buildings

July 7 2023 -

- [SpecialEventPermit](#) Permit issues dates July 13 - October 31

July 17 2023 -

- [PublicInformationRequest](#) for all emails sent within COV pertaining to Farmers Market

July 17 2023 -

- [PublicCommentRequestingEthicsInvestigation](#) and outlining losses totalling more than 13,000 as a direct result of the forced 2 week closure of the Farmers Market

July 20/21 2023 -

- Committee members sign Hometown Hero’s Encroachment Permit

July 25 2023 -

- April makes public comment at the Down Town Visalia’s association meeting asking for human resources investigation and unbiased ethics investigation is told by Executive president Duane Rodriguez can not sit at the table with 6 empty chairs

August 8 2023 -

- [SpecialEventPermitApplication](#) email from Tracy indicating work session

August 21 2023 -

- [Sta ReportSpecialEvents](#) initial sta report detailing proposed changes

August 21 2023 -

- [WorkSessionVisaliaCityCouncilSpecialEventsOrdinance](#) / april gives public comment indicating that this ordinance is being brought forth from the same sta member who she requested an unbiased ethics investigation of just 7 weeks ago.

August 21 2023 -

- [PRA-STAFFEMAILSPRA-All](#) employee emails for certain timeframe

August 21 2023 -

- DuaneRodriguezPresidentoftheDownTownVisaliansOrganizationspeaksout against the Farmers Market

August 22 2023 -

- [PublicCommentDTV8.22.23Grievance4thconsecutivemonth.](#) Full disclosure of the disenfranchisement of the Downtown market by Nelsen including the exclusion from the WW 2 days before, and the Arts Night Out breakdown including Nelsen saying I have a victim mentality, and on the record admittance of interference with permitted special event & request for HR investigation

September 5 2023 -

- [PUBLICMEETINGINVITATION](#) invitation for stakeholders meeting

September 15 2023 -

- [ddrodriguez0405DefamationfromDuaneRodriguez//HereferredtoTicketFBPost](#)

September 19 2023 -

- [THANKYOU](#) email from Tracy to stakeholders following public meeting

September 26 2023 -

- [PublicComment/GreivanceDTV](#) email to exec board asking for official position & request for HR investigation

September 26 2023 -

- City Engineers sign hometown hero's packet

October 3 2023 -

- [PreparationsforFirstRead](#) including 2 options for more impactful petitions // states stakeholders meeting was very encouraging feeling supported by community // notes Downtown Visalians has never had to get a good neighbor petition together for the closure of the entirety of main street for hometown heroes event

October 4 2023 -

- [ExercisingtheRightofInspection](#) email to Steve April demands membership right to inspect the books and membership list for the Downtown Visalians

October 4 2023 -

- [FW:THANKYOU](#) Tracy advises in email thread public hearing is postponed to November 20

October 10 2023 -

- [Grievance](#) to City Council, City manager and city attorney outlining the harassment April is experiencing at the hands of Duane Rodriguez, including his being seen in local businesses slandering April's name and insisting that other business owners do not sign any petition she circulates. He is presenting himself as the president of the downtown Visalians. Rodriguez has called a state level organization April sits on the steering committee of and complained to them about her use of words to express dissatisfaction with not being allowed to sit at a table with 6 empty chairs. He has created a social media account [ddrodriguez0405](#) slandering her.

October 22 2023 -

- [October222023DTVPublicCommentre:HarassmentfromDuaneRodriguez](#) including him being seen slandering my name at local businesses and demanding the business owners do not sign any petition I might circulate

October 25 2023 -

- [PublicInformationRequestAprilrequestsspecialeventspacketsforhometown heroes & fire trucks & food trucks events](#)

October 25 2023 -

- [Signatures](#) Email from steven elsen to tracy robertshaw stating he comes back from lunch to find out he now has to collect signatures for his hometown heroes event which he feels is unjustified since for years a flyer has succeeded. Hope and pray he calms down. Tracy indicates to him that they have to collect signatures now despite how applications have been handled in the past.

October 25 2023 -

- [HomeTownHerosGoodNeighborPetitions](#) Signature dates begin

November 3 2023 -

- [SPECIAL EVENT ORDINANCE UPDATE PUBLIC HEARING DATE CHANGE](#)

December 2 2023 -

- [Ordinance 12.48 Special Events](#) updates from the original work session include identification of "Annual Downtown Events" which exclude the Downtown Visalians Organization from good neighbor petition requirements for all of their events.

December 3 2023 -

- [Special Events Ordinance Update](#) email from April to council detailing work/adversity // "I opened up the agenda packet yesterday in preparation for Monday's Public Hearing & I am floored at the updates to what I saw in August. Most notable, the inclusion of Section 12.48.075 Downtown Annual Community Events. The Ordinance has accounted for nearly every stakeholder in public events with the exception of the Downtown Farmers Market. The updates are clearly targeting the Downtown market despite the public's clear support of the markets continuance."

December 4 2023 -

- [Public Comment](#) April clearly lays out her plans for the 2024 season, which have already been submitted to the city for approval, and asks for clarification, in an attempt to avoid "I want to know what to expect, so that I can avoid emotionally dysregulating surprises from the City." Liz Wynn replies telling me she doesn't believe in closing streets for "normal business activity"

December 4 2023 -

- [Agenda Packet Special Events p.4](#) outlines Stakeholders Meeting: Attended by reps from over 18 orgs, most felt limiting number of events was unnecessary.

December 4 2023 -

- [Public Hearing & First Reading](#) first reading of the ordinance

December 4 2023 -

- Members of the Property Owners Association speak in favor of the restrictive ordinance, including Janeene Robbins who states that Steve Nelsen has increased property values for the DownTown property owners. Several community members speak in favor of the Farmers Market Organization.

December 18 2023 -

- Council member Hernandez-Soto requests future agenda item to reconsider 12 week limit

December 18 2023 -

- [April public comment VCC](#) April makes public comment stating that the PRA for emails from sta indicate that the only complaints on file were from Council member Steve Nelsen. April states have spoken with all neighbors and adapted operations to suit their needs, please with the Council, "I believe Visalia is better than this."

January 8 2024 -

- [Meeting Request](#) April requests meeting with Mayor Poochigian

January 12 2024 -

- [Special Events Packet](#) permit for 2024 is issued

January 16 2024 -

- City Council Meeting held at Convention Center where 17 members from the community spoke up in favor of the Farmers Market

April 26 2024 -

- [DTV Farmers Market](#) email from Tracy indicates the market not set up in accordance with the encroachment permit. April clarifies that the encroachment permit states both sides of church st at main, both parties agree to meet following Monday. In that meeting Tracy states that they will need to go back and redefine frontage.

May 1 2024 -

- [Downtown Visalia's Certified Farmers' Market reopens despite regulatory roadblocks](#) article in the Sun Gazette newspaper detailing the adaptations made in good faith

May 28 2024 -

- [RE: Planning Commission](#) Email conversation questioning council member Liz Wynn about talks of sponsor for FM that I was never included in. Confirms dollars conditional on COV accounts receivable

June 3 2024 -

- [Work Session TCBI Management Agreement Comment](#) April makes public comment outlining her findings regarding bylaw amendments to the DownTown Visalians, attempts at changing bylaws via google form, ignored membership right to inspect and request for Human Resources complaint

June 3 2024 -

- [PublicCommentRegularSessionAprilaskscounciliftheycould](#) effectively act in a human resources type of role on a non profit board with a council member as the director

November 4 2024 -

- [Sta SeekstoredefineRoadFrontageatCouncilMeeting](#).

November 7 2024 -

- [CityHallFarmersMarketClashoverLimitonEvents](#) article where Councilwoman Wynn states, in part, that the ordinance changes were based on a Personality Conflict

November 18 2024 -

- [Sta Report11.18.24](#) further narrows discussion to the enforcement of the Farmers Market permit. Also states that we will not be allowed to use the entire area defined as out "frontage" for our market operations.

[Financial Analysis](#) of Market with current operations & with restricted operations that demonstrates the proposed changes to the location of the market will bankrupt the operation.

Thank you all for getting this far as mentioned on pg 2. Please Scan the QR code for supporting Documents

It is worth noting that Mikki, one of our Market Managers met with Steve after last Council Meeting, and discussed Downtown Visalians supporting the market. The conversation was positive & we are looking forward to positive support for Downtown Visalia Certified Farmers Market