



Sarasota Farmers Market Restroom Proposal

To: Mayor Liz Alpert, Vice-Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch, Commissioner Hagen Brody, Commissioner Willie Charles Shaw, Commissioner Shelli Freeland Eddie

Dear Commissioners,

The main complaint we get from customers at the Sarasota Farmers Market is our restroom availability. We have port-o-lets for customers to use and after several hours with so many people they are very discouraging to say the least, especially for women and children. The Market Director has been working for 10 years to try to come up with a plan to solve this problem. A number of years ago, before the State Street parking garage was built, the Director attended a number of meetings and made mention of restrooms for the farmers market or other events.

With redesign of Lemon Ave and Paul Thorpe Park, the Market has come up with a few options for The City to consider. With all the new construction, including the Pad Lite site, The Mark, and re-bricking of Lemon, along with updated design of Paul Thorpe Park, it would be a travesty to bring port-o-lets back to the area once everything is complete.

In the last nine years the market has become one of the most highly attended and notable markets in the country. The small vendors we have that put a lot of time into the success of the market deserve to at least have a facility that would be up to standards for such a great city. Attached are some possible proposals, but please keep in mind as a 501c3, we are willing to help finance some of these projects and even acquire grants to facilitate this very important need.

- ***Phil Pagano, Executive Director***
Sarasota Farmers Market (SFMV, Inc.)
(941) 225-9256, manager@sarasotafarmersmarket.org

Preferred Option: Restrooms located behind small amphitheater

One thought for restrooms could possibly be located behind small amphitheater in Paul Thorpe Park, knowing that any public restrooms provided by the city could be a burden with maintenance being open on a regular basis. One idea would be if the City could lease pavilion/amphitheater in Paul Thorpe Park to the farmers market. This would allow us to provide restrooms for customers and vendors on Saturdays, but would also allow other organizations to utilize it when necessary. Please see below.

- ***The Market would pay for any design of the pavilion/amphitheater***
- ***As a 501c3, the Market would raise funding to build a pavilion/amphitheater.***
- ***The market would have a lease with the city for a number of years (to be determined).***
- ***The market would be responsible for all maintenance and utility fees.***
- ***The market would allow other nonprofits to utilize the pavilion/amphitheater for any events not during the market. A small administration/cleaning fee and providing police officer during event would be required.***

This is a rough idea of a proposed pavilion/amphitheater.

At the right is a photo taken off the internet of a similar design. Something on a smaller scale could be a great fit for this area.



Other Possible Options:

- **Portable Restroom Trailer**

*Create space in Paul Thorpe Park to have permanent restrooms.
(Image at right is from Selby Gardens)*



- **State Street Garage**

Possible retrofitting of storage area on first level to include restrooms. (See images at right)

