

[if you would like to cosign this letter, please message me via facebook or email nospace4hate@protonmail.com to request that your name be added as a cosigner.] Please include [Name][Affiliation, if any][locale]. I hope to send it out Monday or Tuesday

To write your own letter, or to express your own concerns, Contact the Advisory Council members via farmersmarket@bloomington.in.gov or through the Farmers' Market staff at 812-349-3738.

Dear Farmer's Market Advisory Board,

My name is Abby Ang. I am a resident of Bloomington and a participant in your Farmers' Market. I am distressed to hear that Schooner Creek Farm is a vendor at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market.

It's been known for a long time in our community that the owners of Schooner Creek Farm are members of Identity Evropa. Identity Evropa is an American neo-Nazi and white supremacist organization established in March 2016. The group is identified as a white supremacist organization by the Anti-Defamation League and is designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group. One of the owners, Sarah Dye, has posted on white supremacist hate groups on Discord (<https://discordleaks.unicornriot.ninja/discord/user/6786>), a chat/forum software, and on Youtube, and made clear her white supremacist views. She has also been identified by the username Volkmom by Nolan Brewer, who recently vandalized a synagogue in Carmel (<https://twitter.com/EmilyGorcenski/status/1132215666986106880>). This letter from Thomas Westgard to the Nashville Farmer's Market Board also outlines some of her ties to the white supremacist community.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10219101394394697&id=1501485042&ref=bookmarks

Identity Evropa has had a history of discrimination against large swaths of the population. In Feb 2017, members of their organization put up posters specifically on the office doors of faculty members of color in the African American and African Diaspora Studies program, the IU Maurer School of Law, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (http://www.heraldtimesonline.com/news/local/posters-left-around-iu-campus-appear-to-be-from-white/article_12b84705-4769-5400-94b3-1ddca8b7de8d.html) and (https://www.hoosiertimes.com/herald_times_online/news/local/incident-on-iu-campus-included-in-report-of-growing-white/article_8952391b-1191-5770-a360-6ee227936e42.html). At the time, Provost Robel spoke in condemnation of the incident.

The presence of white supremacists at the market creates a hostile and unsafe atmosphere for POC, queer people, people with disabilities, and the Jewish community to attend the market. In order for The City of Bloomington Farmers' Market to participate in federally sponsored programs such as SNAP, WICFMP and SFMNP it is required they must be in compliance with all policies put forth by the US Department of Agriculture Civil Rights. As such, these programs

expressly prohibit any program or activity funded by the USDA from activities which discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. Additionally the 2019 FMNP Handbook states that “failure to treat participants, their families, local agency staff, or FMNP representative(s) in a respectful manner” is outlined as a Class III Program Violation and may result in suspension and possible disqualification from the program.

As a person of color, and as an advocate for diversity and inclusiveness in all public venues like the Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market, and as someone who supports the inclusiveness of the Market, I hope that the Farmer’s Market can make it clear that hate and intolerance has no place in our town. POC are disproportionately at risk for experiencing poor nutrition/health outcomes as a result of food insecurity, and any program which supports white supremacist activities does so to the detriment of those who the SNAP, WICFMNPP, and SFMNP purportedly serve.

I, along with 230 of the community members are prepared to file a program complaint with Legita Wilson at the Indiana State Department of Health, and the US Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights against the Bloomington Community Farmers Market, or any farmers’ market who knowingly supports the activities of Schooner’s Creek Farm, Sarah Dye, or any vendor that chooses to support, participate in, or advance the cause of organized white supremacy in Indiana.

Thank you so much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Abby Ang, Bloomington, Indiana

Co-signed:
[Names redacted from public document; will be included in email to board]

List of co-signing organizations:
Black Lives Matter Bloomington
Bloomington PRIDE
Democracy for Monroe County
Indivisible Bloomington + 9th District
Indivisible: Grant County
UndocuHoosiers Bloomington
Women’s March on Washington - Indiana chapter