

**Aug 29, 2022**

Dear Community,

I have received a lot of questions regarding a public statement that St. Ignatius released on August 12th which I would like to address.

I stand by my letter to the community that I shared on August 12th. I spent considerable time and energy negotiating detailed arrangements with several St. Ignatius staff members, including two SI Vice Presidents. The meetings were facilitated by Supervisor Mar and attended by an SFMTA representative, and culminated in a verbal agreement between St. Ignatius and myself that would allow Sunset Mercantile to peacefully coexist with SI's schedule of planned yearly events. Based on our verbal agreement at the conclusion of our negotiations, SFMTA granted Sunset Mercantile the Shared Spaces Permit for 37th Avenue from Ortega Street to Quintara Street. SI has since said it can no longer abide by that agreement because they didn't involve the right people in our discussions.

After reaching our verbal agreement, SI requested that it be put in writing for future reference for both parties and offered to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to do so. The MOU was not supposed to reopen negotiations but was meant to be a written record of the terms we had just agreed upon. However, when I received the MOU, SI had unilaterally made a number of substantial changes to our agreement that would jeopardize the sustainability of our market.

SI states that I indicated that the market would not use the public street adjacent to the school once Covid-19 distancing regulations ended and school was back in person. At no point did I indicate that the market would return to one block. I reached out to SI before requesting a permit for this space, and promised to reassess how this worked out after SI recommenced in-person schooling. Our extensive joint conversations with Supervisor Mar and SFMTA are exactly the reassessment we agreed to. In the interim, during the Pandemic numerous new local businesses that serve the community every Sunday and beyond sprouted and grew with the success of the market. Without 37th Ave south of Pacheco, those businesses - and the market-goers that count on them - would have to find a new place outside of the Sunset.

SI also mentioned one of the changes they made to our agreement: asking that Sunset Mercantile pay to cover any lawsuits by people that visit the farmers market and get injured on SI's property - even if SI caused the injury through their own negligence and even if the visitor was primarily visiting SI, or was SI staff or students. They call this "sharing" liability, however, in actuality, it is not "sharing" liability at all, it is pushing all liability onto Sunset Mercantile for SI's property on days we hold a market on public space. To address SI's concerns about the public going onto their property on market days, we would be happy to work with SI to put up signage and rope barriers to remind market goers not to go on their private property. I'm willing to work with SI to find creative solutions to address their concerns, but the solution cannot be risking bankrupting the market to save SI from its obligation to maintain the safety of its property.

I remain committed to being a good neighbor. I will continue to implement our verbal agreement, despite the significant cost to the market. I have told SI that I am happy to have further discussions, but the discussions cannot start with throwing out everything we worked out over weeks of joint negotiations with SFMTA and Supervisor Mar. I appreciate all of the community's support, and hope that SI is willing to work towards peaceful coexistence with the market in an atmosphere of mutual respect, to ensure that our Sunday market can continue to benefit our shared community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Angie Petitt

Co-founder and Director

Sunset Mercantile

**Aug 12, 2022**

To Our Outer Sunset Community and Beyond,

After in-depth discussions with St. Ignatius (SI), SFTMA, and with immense help from Supervisor Gordon Mar, Sunset Mercantile reached a verbal agreement with SI that reduces the market's size to give SI more elbow room on a number of days that SI has large events. Based on that verbal agreement, we are very pleased to confirm that we received our Shared Spaces permit renewal for 37th Ave between Ortega and Quintara from SFMTA, ensuring we can continue to serve the community through March 26, 2023.

In that verbal agreement, we committed to make a number of changes to Sunset Mercantile operations to accommodate SI's concerns, including reducing the market's size on a number of days, providing a staffed vehicle access lane through the market to SI's parking lot, and limiting hours and locations music is played out of consideration for SI chapel services. SI offered no changes to its programming.

SI asked that we put the agreement into a written "Memorandum of Understanding," which we were happy to do. Unfortunately, converting the verbal agreement into a written Memorandum of Understanding has stalled because SI has stated they cannot honor their original agreement - changing their original requests and adding new ones - because they say they did not involve the right people at SI in our meetings. Accommodating their new requests would mean removing space for numerous additional small business vendors, entirely eliminating one music stage with local bands from all market days, removing both music stages during their events, removing free children's activities and community programming, and more. The Sunset Mercantile could not provide consistency to its vendors or the community with these conditions.

That won't stop us from honoring our original verbal commitments to SI on the basis of which the permit was renewed. Below are the details of the original agreement, which we will honor going forward. We've told SI that we'll keep our word without a written agreement, but are happy to put things on paper if SI wishes, so long as the paper reflects our original agreement. We appreciate the community's support throughout this process, and hope that putting this agreement into practice will lay the groundwork for a long and neighborly coexistence with St. Ignatius, as well as a sustainable and enriching community market for all to enjoy for years to come.

- Sunset Mercantile will reduce the farmers market to one block, Ortega to Pacheco on the dates of SI's 2 largest events which includes this Sunday August 14th;
- Sunset Mercantile will reduce the farmers market size to stay north of the SI chapel on 5 additional dates, and will keep amplified music north of Pacheco until after 11am on those dates out of consideration for SI chapel services;
- Sunset Mercantile will reduce the farmers market size to stay north of SI's main entrance on 2 additional dates; and
- Sunset Mercantile will continue to provide a dedicated and staffed vehicle access lane through the market to accommodate SI priest, staff, guests and delivery vehicle access to SI's 37th Ave parking lot via Sunset Blvd.

Thank you for all of your beautiful and passionate letters, love and support. We are so grateful for this amazing community!