

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 10, 2017

Agenda Item #10

MOTION ON WESTWOOD VILLAGE FARMERS' MARKET

Whereas, the Westwood Village Farmers' Market has been an integral part of the Westwood community beginning in May 1994; and

Whereas, the current Market Manager, Emmanuel Bautista, has worked at the Westwood Village Farmers' Market for newly eight years, including more than seven years as Assistant Market Manager, and since December 1, 2016 as the Market Manager; and

Whereas, immediately upon taking over the Farmers' Market, Emmanuel Bautista resolved many issues, including securing liability insurance, state permits, and reassuring the farmers and vendors; and

Whereas, in the four months that he has been the Market Manager Emmanuel Bautista has made many outstanding improvements to the market, including adding top-quality Certified farmers, award-winning gourmet artisan food vendors, new genres of live music, a resident poet, knife sharpener, monthly special events highlighting Westwood Village merchants and restaurants, and establishing a twice-monthly e-newsletter with twice as many recipients; and

Whereas, Emmanuel Bautista has earned the demonstrated and widespread confidence, trust, and support among the farmers and vendors, Village merchants, Westwood neighbors, UCLA students, faculty and staff, and other Westwood stakeholders; and

Whereas, when Emmanuel Bautista was asked by the Westwood BID to take over as Market Manager beginning December 1, 2016, he was told by the BID president he would be given at least six months to demonstrate his ability to manage and improve the market; and

Whereas, just 12 days after Emmanuel Bautista took over as Market Manager, the Westwood BID staff issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) to seek new management of the farmers market; and

Whereas, by accelerating the process, the BID did not give Emmanuel Bautista the six months he was promised, nor did he receive any evaluation of his performance before the RFP was issued; and

Whereas, it is clear that Emmanuel Batista has not been given a fair opportunity by the Westwood BID to demonstrate his ability and competency to manage the Westwood Village Farmers' Market; and

Whereas, the Westwood BID has not consulted with the Westwood Neighborhood Council, Westwood Community Council, local homeowner associations, or other key Westwood stakeholder groups before making this unilateral change to the market:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on the Westwood BID board and staff to give him a fair opportunity of at least 18-24 months to demonstrate what he can do to lead, strengthen, and further enhance the Westwood Village Farmers' Market.