

Dear Mayor Cohen and City Council Members:

We, the principals of Gone to Market, appreciate and feel privileged to have been selected for the important opportunity to undertake the rejuvenation of Annapolis' historic Market House. It is an endeavor that we entered into with great passion. Having spent much of our careers successfully restoring and creating landmark properties, Annapolis seemed to offer an opportunity for us to once again experience the exhilaration of bringing back to life a landmark of this kind.

Unfortunately, after many, many months of arduous discussion, both with you and others in government and facing the court of public opinion, we have come to the conclusion that proceeding under the current circumstances is not in the best interest of the Market itself or the city. This storied structure has important value for the community far beyond its size and its renovation should be undertaken in an environment most conducive to success. We do not believe that environment currently exist and that it would be a serious mistake to proceed without public support. It is our belief and hope that consideration of our proposal over the last several months, while difficult, has served a useful and ultimately productive result for the City. Much has been learned. Certainly the passion that has been displayed is clear evidence of the importance of this historic building and the necessity for it to carry on as a centerpiece of this community. The frank discussions that have taken place within the government and the media have clarified the issues involved and future directions. Although some action is needed, armed with all that has been learned, we believe that a step back should occur and a new process undertaken, namely a solicitation of proposals with a very precise mandate and parameters. We realize that such a process carries uncertainty and some delays in returning this important landmark to civic usefulness. Although we were prepared to proceed and make a significant time and financial commitment now, confident that we could produce a market that satisfies all our hopes, we respectfully feel it is in the best interest of the project and community for us to withdraw our application at this time. Should you request proposals in the future, we would certainly hope to respond. We simply believe that it is important for the project to begin in an environment with the kind of civic support that fosters success.

We would like to thank you, both the Mayor and City Council members, for your efforts on behalf of this project. Certainly, the aim of all has been to restore the Annapolis Market House to its rightful position as the focus of Maryland's Capitol City. We sincerely hope that in the future the Market House can once again thrive.

Sincerely,

Lehr Jackson, Gone To Market LLC