



ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY

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We are disappointed to see the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile has published [a pair of public posts](#) to Facebook about our conversations on how they occupy 37th Ave. on the block in front of our school that includes the driveway which service vehicles and Jesuit residents use. We had agreed not to speak publicly about any of these conversations in order to build trust, but OSFMM has chosen to continually share details about our ongoing talks with media outlets and elsewhere, many of which are not accurate.

Because OSFMM has decided to publicly accuse SI of going back on its word, we feel it is important you know why we do not believe that is so, and to share details the market left out of its statement:

- 1) After we reached verbal agreement on which two days OSFMM would not occupy the block in front of SI at all, SFMTA left it up to us to hammer out details about how OSFMM might occupy the block on several other Sundays when SI holds events on campus, including church services. In our meetings, we gave an estimate of when those church services might end, and OSFMM is now trying to make that a hard line. We have asked for understanding and flexibility about not rushing people out of religious services and clearing out all at once.
- 2) OSFMM is also leaving out that along with this request, SI proposed several measures to simplify how the block is shared on market days that SI staff developed after our in-person meetings. Those measures include pulling back on some days that we had originally agreed to partial access to the block, dramatically changing our events planning, and telling OSFMM we have no objection to their using the full block on those days.
- 3) OSFMM is leaving out that the additions to the agreement we have asked for are mainly about liability. SI's front steps go up to a public sidewalk, but those steps and the walkways on 37th Ave. are private property. We understand that many people who attend the market will use those spaces to rest, eat, and move around. We believe it is fair that because OSFMM is bringing those crowds that SI not take on the full burden for any liability arising from any accidents in those areas on market days. Other additions are about noise outside SI's chapel during Mass.

- 4) Finally, we find it disheartening that OSFMM has accused us of going back on our word because this entire conflict arose from the market's leadership going back on their word. In 2020, when SI was in distance learning, OSFMM contacted us and asked if we had any issue with them using the 2000 block of 37th Ave. on Sundays in order to create more distance between vendors. We did not have any issue with that, specifically because OSFMM indicated they would go back to their original footprint on the 1900 block of 37th Ave. once COVID-19 distancing regulations ended and school was back in-person. Now, distancing regulations have ended and school is back in-person, yet they wish to make their expanded footprint in front of the school permanent. SI could have chosen to pursue maximal defense of our frontage and, especially, our driveway, but instead chose to ask for cooperation when we bring large numbers of people to campus from around the Bay Area so as to minimize disruption to nearby residential streets and our religious services.

SI remains optimistic we can work with the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile to come to a solution that considers both parties' and the neighborhood's best interests. We hope that their most recent statements are not a signal that they have stopped talks.

[Read SI's previous statement on the OSFMM](#)