

Dear Annapolis City Council and Citizens,

We deeply apologize for not being present in person, as our yearly family reunion is this week in Georgia and we could not change our plans. As an introduction, we are Carolyn and David Marquis, owners of the Chesapeake Brewing Company at 114 West Street, Annapolis. We have submitted a proposal for your support and approval relevant to the Annapolis Market House. As a background Carolyn Marquis has a Bachelors in Business Finance from University of Maryland and worked for Feds managing big system integration projects and David Marquis was a pilot with U.S. Navy for 23 years after graduation from USNA in 85. We lived in the area all our lives, mainly Bowie and Dunkirk – but spending much of our time in Edgewater and Annapolis. Upon retirement we opened a small restaurant, the Blue Crab Café in Crisfield MD this restaurant specialized in seafood . Over the years it expanded multiple times becoming a tap house, an additional dining room, then a brew pub. In 2013 we began brewing experimental small batches to see if creating a brewery would benefit our remote location in Crisfield. We set up the brewery, paired up with Shore Craft Beer in Ocean City and became heavily involved with the craft beer scene exploding between Salisbury and Ocean City. Although it didn't amount to much in Crisfield, the beers upon distribution on the western shore began taking off, mainly in Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. In 2015 we began scouting out a 2nd location closer to our customers, finally settled on an the old Annapolis Firehouse. Recently we were appointed by Comptroller Franhcot to serve on the task-force to reform the state's beer laws.

Our products focus on Maryland's history and pride: (Tangier Red, Marsh Mud Oyster Stout, Marion Station Strawberry Sour, and Waterman's Soul IPA to name a few). We also highlighted other small up & coming Maryland Breweries that also highlight Maryland in their brands: Eastern Shore, Antietam, Tall Tales, RAR, DuClaw, Burley Oak, and Evo, As members of BAM – Brewers Association of Maryland, we also work closely and carry Maryland wines and distillery products.

What we hope to bring to the Annapolis Market House is a return to highlighting and showcasing what Annapolis is for – its history, art, dining and entertainment. We would have fresh produce from local farms, locally sourced seafood, seasonal jams, jellies and sauces, flowers and small plants, cured meats and cheese. The proposal we offered will have a kiosk that houses self service for all entertainment options like theater, concerts, art, food, wine, and haunted tours, boat rides, charter fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking, and festival tickets. This will help promote as a one, stop shop, the purchasing of tickets for gifts or same day use. We would also offer Maryland wines and beers for take-home enjoyment. Another section would offer local art exhibits with art demonstrations and sale items. We have no intention of competing with the nearby restaurants, like many of the other proposals would, but want to highlight the restaurants nearby with a free area to house copies of their menus and weekend events.

We are not looking to profit by this endeavor, but instead cover its operational costs and work closely with the community and city as an informational gathering place and take out for off premise consumption. Right now Annapolis is facing stiff competition from Baltimore Harbor and Fells Point, Parole Town Center, Arundel Mills and soon – just over the bridge in Queens Town with shopping and dining opportunities exploding. Annapolis, by virtue of its heritage, art, and waterfront continues to offer many reasons to visit, work, live and play. As new developments unfold and consumers desire convenience and value, we hope to be able to respond to make sure that both local residents and visitors alike have local products, while highlighting the nearby restaurants, arts and entertainment opportunities that make up Annapolis.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and hope you make the best choice for Annapolis. Please feel free to reach out to us at our West Street location if you have any questions.

David & Carolyn Marquis,