

Megan:

I read your story today and noticed how factually incorrect it was. The following sentence is incorrect -

“Mayor discourages Eastside Catholic from hosting farmers market”

What I told you on Friday evening was that I was asked to send the city statement regarding social gatherings and that is exactly what I did. This is what I sent to the school. This is copied directly from the email you mention in the story.

“The City Council voted to cancel all City of Sammamish events through the end of August, inclusive of the 2020 Farmers Market. This was not a decision that was made lightly, but the safety of Sammamish’s residents is the City’s #1 priority. The unknown trajectory of the pandemic and the impossibility of maintaining safe social distancing at these popular events such as the Farmer’s Market weighed heavily in the decision. Sammamish has the lowest rate of contagion on a per capita basis in all of Washington State, and we want to keep it that way by not encouraging gatherings (even by those volunteering) such as a Farmer’s Market.”

In addition, you admitted to me the following in your email:

“We were lead to believe by Eastside Catholic that an email was initiated by you discouraging the farmers market be held there. After further questioning them we realized they contacted you first.” And then you ask how I felt about the school giving the misconception that I initiated the communication.

Yet in your story you wrote:

“Mayor Moran then called Gil Picciotto, the president of Eastside Catholic, and discouraged the school from hosting the market, according to email records provided by the City.”

I am greatly disappointed in the misreporting of the facts in this story. I would appreciate an immediate retraction.

