

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MAYOR SAYS ERIE STREET MARKET VENDORS
WILL GET THEIR MONEY**

Toledo, Ohio -- Responding to complaints from vendors at the Erie Street Market that they had not received proceeds from CitiFest from sales of their merchandise, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner has determined that the City of Toledo will assure they receive those funds that are owed.

The funds in question, totaling approximately \$3,000, were collected by CitiFest in October and November, but not presented to the vendors. Since the City took over management of the Market, vendors have been paid for their sales. The money in question is owed by CitiFest - not the City of Toledo.

“We feel a moral obligation to make sure that these vendors - our tenants - receive the funds to which they are entitled for the merchandise they sold. This is only fair,” said Mayor Finkbeiner. “We’ll make good on Citifest’s debt and pursue all avenues to ensure CitiFest eventually pays their debts.”

How the vendors will be reimbursed has not yet been determined and alternatives are being explored by the Department of Development.

The City of Toledo took over day-to-day management of the Erie Street Market November 13, 2007 after CitiFest informed the City that it had run out of funds. The City's Department of Development has prepared a business plan to make the market profitable. This plan has been submitted to a committee of local business people for their review and input. When this review is complete, it will be presented to Toledo City Council for action.

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