

## **Bloomington Farmers' Market – Summary of Issues**

### **Official Statement – Bloomington Farmers' Market**

June 12, 2019. Indiana Daily Student (IDS), Letter alleges white supremacists sell at farmers' market. By Ellen Hine

Regarding the personal views of the owners of SCF and a petition to remove them from the Market submitted by Abby Ang, the Bloomington Farmers' Market issued the following statement: *"To our knowledge, this vendor has not shared these views at Market and has treated customers with respect," said Marcia Veldman, program/facility coordinator for Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Department, in an email response to Ang. "The City is constitutionally prohibited from discriminating against someone because of their belief system, no matter how abhorrent those views may be. The City may only intercede if an individual's actions violate the safety and human rights of others."*

### **Allegations associated with the owners of Schooner Creek Farm**

Aug 3, 2019. (Bloomington) Herald-Times [Commentary: Don't forget the First Amendment](#), By Laura Lane

- *The Herald-Times has published multiple articles on the farmers' market developments. We have done our own research. We have reviewed court documents, emails, videos and recordings that so many claim is proof that the owners of Schooner Creek Farm are white supremacists. Direct evidence, it isn't there. ... When a news organization publishes a false statement that damages a person's reputation, that's libel. I make sure, just about every day, to not libel anyone. Not just because I could be sued, but because it's important that the information we report be accurate. We cannot and do not print accusations that can't backed up with tangible stand-up-in-court proof.*

Aug 2, 2019. WFIU - Noon Edition - Panel Discussion. Steve Sanders - Associate Professor - IU Maurer School of Law, WFIU Noon Addition, Panel Discussion, Follow-up Comments

*In response to owners of SCF's association with Identity Evropa: "My point was that affiliations and linkages can be ambiguous and that it is irresponsible to use them to imply the worst possible meaning in the absence of proof of exactly what someone believes or seeks to accomplish. I'm a Democrat, but that doesn't mean I automatically embrace what every leader of the party stands for."*

### **Allegations – American Identity Movement**

In March 2019, Identity Evropa was disbanded and the American Identity Movement (AIM) was established. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has alleged that the American Identity Movement (AIM) is an alt right white supremacist group. The Southern Poverty Law Center has made similar allegations.

AIM disputes these allegations. *"The American Identity Movement believes in effecting change peacefully and lawfully, and rejects political violence, extremism, and supremacism in all of its forms."* Reference: AIM Website