



For Immediate Release

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**Weaver Street Market’s Board of Directors names James Watts as the new
General Manager of the grocery cooperative**

HILLSBOROUGH—Weaver Street Market’s Board of Directors announced today that James Watts, Jr. will become its next General Manager, effective April 27. Watts will succeed Ruffin Slater, who is retiring after 36 years at the helm of the organization.

“The Board is excited to have James as our next General Manager,” said Allanah Hines, Board Chair. “With over 31 years of dedicated service to Weaver Street Market, James brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this pivotal role. His deep understanding of our cooperative values, coupled with his extensive background in the grocery industry, positions him well to lead Weaver Street Market into its next chapter of growth and innovation.”

“I’m excited for the opportunity to serve Weaver Street Market owners and shoppers, and to lead the cooperative’s future growth and development as we work to build a more equitable food system,” said Watts, who has worked closely with Slater over the past four months to ensure a seamless transition.

The Board extended its gratitude to Slater, who is one of Weaver Street Market’s founders and its General Manager since its inception in 1988.

“Throughout his remarkable 36-year tenure, Ruffin has championed the transformative power of the cooperative model, fostering accessibility to nutritious food and nurturing Weaver Street Market as a cherished gathering space for all members of our community,” added Hines.

“Through his unwavering vision and dedication Weaver Street has grown into the largest retail grocery cooperative in the Southeast, boasting over 26,000 consumer owners and worker owners, who have embraced and cherished the Weaver Street Market experience.

“I’m looking forward to spending more time with my family and exploring new horizons,” said Slater. “I will continue to support Weaver Street Market’s mission to revolutionize the North Carolina food system.”

About Weaver Street Market

Weaver Street Market is a co-operative food market driving the growth of local and sustainable food. We’re owned by 26,000 consumer owners and 200 worker owners. We operate downtown stores in Carrboro, Chapel Hill’s Southern Village, Hillsborough, and Raleigh, as well as a Food House in Hillsborough that provides fresh deli, bakery, and meat products to its stores twice daily.