

242 Havelock St.
Toronto, M6H 3B9
Jan. 21, 2011

Councillor Ana Bailao
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Suite C42
Toronto M5H 2N2

Dear Ana,

I recently received a \$450 parking ticket, which, as you will imagine, was quite a shock. I had parked on Bloor St. West opposite Sweet Pete's bicycle shop where I had to deliver a broken bicycle. Thinking myself in a proper parking spot – I have been accustomed for years to parking on that stretch of Bloor St. – I obtained a parking ticket from the machine and went into the store. When I returned, only a few moments later, I found the ticket. Looking up, I noticed the two small signs which mark the space. But when I looked more closely, I found that the sign at the east end of the space is obscured by a tree, as you will see from the enclosed photograph. That, presumably is why I didn't notice it as I pulled in from the west. There is no marking whatsoever at eye level, either on the street or on the curb, and there was no reason for me to look up, since I knew from long experience that parking was permitted there.

Several things disturb me about this. If this space is relatively new – that is, in relation, to the long period over which people build up habits and expectations, such as that one can park on that section of Bloor St. – and if, as I think I have documented, the space is poorly marked, then it is unconscionable for the City of Toronto to be handing out \$450.00 tickets for what could easily be, and in my case was, an innocent mistake. Dealing with the citizens in this way can only bring the law into contempt. And, on top of that, it has the appearance of a cash grab, since I was only in the store for a few minutes, and yet the ticket was there when I returned. This made me wonder whether the parking officer pays particular attention to that space because of the large profits to be made from it.

I will contest the parking ticket, but I think this space needs to be more clearly marked before any more tickets are issued. (I don't object in principle to severe penalties for abuse of handicapped parking, so long as the citizens can clearly see that that's what it is.) The people at the bike store, when I mentioned my misfortune, told me that they knew of other cases as well. I also asked '311' whom I should contact at the city about the poor signing of this space. They referred me to 'Parking Tags' who told me only that I could dispute the ticket, which I had already said I was doing in my inquiry.

I have enclosed copies of photos which indicate the problems with this parking space.

Yours truly,

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