



1204 BLOOR ST. W | TORONTO ON  
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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have owned Sweet Pete's Bike Shop at 1204 Bloor Street West for 16 years. In the past few years, I have had more than a dozen complaints from customers who parked their cars across the street, and who had received what they felt were unfair tickets. All of these people had parked in a disabled parking spot which they had not noticed. There is a tree nearby blocking one of the "no parking" signs, and also there are so many other signs on this major arterial road that – failing other visual cues – the disabled parking sign is easy to miss. There is a pay-and-display machine near the "no parking" zone, and customers who complained to me have showed me that they had paid for the parking at the machine.

When my customer, David Cayley, got his ticket (also having bought a parking pass at the pay-and-display), I told him that many others had the same complaint. He suggested that clearer markings would clear up the problem – a yellow curb marking or even a blue international wheelchair symbol on the road. He and his wife, Jutta Mason, told me that they sent this suggestion to the city. When the suggestion was turned down immediately, they contacted the city councillor, and then a process began which has been ongoing for some years, still without any remedy.

I have helped countless 'offenders' by informing them that they are parked in a handicapped space at which point they move their vehicle -- I don't believe that any of them meant to park in a disabled space as evidenced by the fact that they DO move to another space! As much as I'd like to, I can't monitor the space all the time. In spite of my best efforts, my customers continue to get tickets.

I fail to see why such a simple solution can't be implemented – why can the city not just paint the internationally recognized wheelchair symbol onto the street or even paint the curb yellow. It would be easy to even just try it for a year and see if the infractions go down. Such a marking would also be helpful for Safehaven, the service for whom the handicapped space was created. The young, disabled patients they care for NEED that space to be clear at all times!!

But I have to wonder – perhaps the income to the city from this one spot is so useful that they don't want to lose it by putting on clearer markings? If that's the case, I would like to protest, as a businessman interested in fairness to my customers.

I would love to discuss the matter further and am available to do so at any time. My work phone number is 416-533-4481 or my personal cell number is 416-816-7383. Alternatively, feel free to email me at [pete@sweetpetes.com](mailto:pete@sweetpetes.com).

Kind regards,

Pete Lilly

Owner

Sweet Pete's Bicycle Shop

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