



Ann Machado <amachado@portlandmaine.gov>

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## UNION KITCHEN

1 message

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**Chris Weber** <theblacktieco@hotmail.com>

Wed, May 24, 2017 at 1:07 PM

To: "amachado@portlandmaine.gov" <amachado@portlandmaine.gov>

Good afternoon Ann

I am sending this email in hopes of appealing a decision to not allow additional signage at my Union Wharf/Commercial Street location.

I have been in business in the City of Portland for 30 years. I moved my take out business down to Union Wharf almost 10 years ago. I did \$50, 000.00 worth of renovations to a relatively run down space, which was an old mom and pop grocery store that closed. I had high hopes of recouping my investment, and becoming a mainstay for businesses and tourists on Commercial Street. I have had a difficult time of it to say the least, and much of that is attributed to the lack of visibility of my location. It has a large set back from the road, and the front door area is on an angle, making it difficult to see our signage from most vantage points. ( please see photos that I sent to you)

I cant not help but notice that our neighbor has multiple signs on the building, facing three different directions. I mean no disrespect towards them, I only add this as I am quite sure they wanted their space to display it's name as many ways as they are able.

We run a great store there, and the signage that we submitted ( please see our sign we submitted for approval) is in keeping with the other signage on the building, as well as in keeping with all concerns and statutes for the appeals process.

We only are asking for some type of help from the City of Portland so that people driving down Commercial Street will see our sign, unobstructed, and will begin to be able to find us. We never assumed this would be an issue, and we rent all of the parking spots on that side of the building, and we have the full support of the building owner, who will be contacting you as well.

Please let me know when I will be able to be heard. I have much testimony from wonderful customers who have come in and told us first hand that not many people even know we are there,

as they can not see us unless they are directly below our door.

I am new at "fighting City Hall".....but I will do anything you ask as far as submission and testimonials to help assure that we have a fighting chance to finally succeed in this location in the way that is necessary to stay in the competitive Old Port.

I thank you for listening. Please let me know what else I can address to help this process along.

Warm Regards

Chris Weber

Owner

The Black Tie Company

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Owner

The Black Tie Company

"rather light a candle than complain about darkness" | chinese proverb