

For the Attention of Berlin NH City Council,

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Eleni Koxarakis, I am writing this letter on behalf of my husband Tony Koxarakis, proprietor of Gold House Pizza, Berlin NH, situated on 30 Mechanic Street.

We would like to petition the Council Board for specific designated parking space.

I am aware of the difficult situation as there is very little allocated parking and understand that private business parking may conflict with the City Council regulations, unfortunately without parking space for my deliveries and staff, of whom many hold much needed stock in their vehicles, as well as Tony and I, we would be forced to move to Gorham or just close. It has grown to be that impossible.

Allow me to at least explain my situation. I currently have four vehicles that come and go at any point of the day, multiple times with varying degrees of stock load, we are constantly running for stock that our deliveries do not cover or have failed to supply, so these staff members have to carry three, sometimes four cases of lettuce (for example) from their car to the shop and typically have been forced to park a good 10min walk away with the weight of produce or bread rolls and wraps and even cleaning products which we order by the case or buy in bulk from Walmart or Berlin Market Place. We have tried to manage the space in Gold House to the point where we renovated only to incorporate stock storage, but still, we cannot keep up. Over the years we have used the three parking spaces within Northway Bank parking, closest to our shop, as it allows us the freedom to come and go between orders and retrieve what is necessary for that night/day. Now they have been banned and rudely confronted by Northway Bank for using the three parking spaces, facing our shop. I understand that they own their parking and have allocated it specifically for customers, so we cant argue their point, however, this morning I was parked in the bank parking, car still running, when I was approached quite venomously, and told to move immediately, I tried to explain I was only waiting for the parking space right next to my shop to open up so I did not have to walk carrying my Booth stained glass that weighs quite enough to warrant me parking closer if I could. Needless to say, the gentleman that was so unjustly and disgustingly rude to me would not even listen for a second, granted they are probably so annoyed with us, but I feel he could have been a little more considerate since they have ample parking with their two lots behind the bank as well as, like he said “ All their staff” park in the parking lot next to Irvings, even though this is not true.

There are three Bank staff members that park on the Mechanic Street parking, I have asked them to be considerate and allow myself and my staff to park there due to our circumstances, but they refuse and hold a grudge when we use their parking. The off-street parking is not allocated to any specifically but since they have their parking and do not need to carry in heavy loads, I feel this is a small space to ask for, to avoid any more unpleasant confrontations. My employees are sore and tired from running from various parking spaces, too far to run daily in all sorts of weather conditions, and then to have to put in a 10-hour shift running and lifting and the stress of the customers complaining that food is taking too long because we must wait for SOMEONE to get the chance to run across the street for rolls. I know for a fact that everyone has seen me carrying 50 bags of bread rolls into the shop from my car, in the middle of snowstorm, I'm exhausted and still must apologize and smile even though not a single person will offer to help, especially anyone from the Bank. I have also carried in a whole case of lettuce from the parking outside Smith & Town (who did not complain), with two fractured wrists and so stressed and drenched from the rain, and STILL the bank refused to move their vehicles. This is too much and too difficult for it to be worth the trouble for myself and Tony.

Then on Tuesday, as well as many other days, the Bank staff have parked right in front of Gold House preventing my delivery trucks from having easy access, so they parked on Pleasant Steet, next to Irvings, not only causing traffic complications, but also and insurmountable amount of stress, balancing a huge amount of heavy loads onto his dolly, on a downhill slope, maneuvering the sidewalk, trying to cross, then trying to get through our emergency exit door, and has now complained to his superiors, who in turn are legally bound to limit their staff work load for their safety and have consequently limited our deliveries to days that we are closed, and even one of them, completely until we can solve their delivery situation. This is not good business for us, and quite upsetting. Gold House can no longer exist without the support of the City Council, even though we've never complained about the few other situations that fall on the councils' shoulders to keep a business running. Tony and I are loathed to complain, we want to be self-sufficient and capable of solving our own problems and still serve our customers with the joy we once had. This is no longer the case.

All we ask for is the Mechanic Steet off-road parking. That only gives me three parking spaces for my staff, one parking for Tony, (not even me on stock days) and the barely existent two parking spaces right next to Gold House for my delivery trucks.

I have convinced Tony to hold off his move to Gorham until after we have heard from the City Council, Gold House will not suffer or disintegrate from your lack of support as we have our building in Gorham with ample parking already incorporated, we understand that there is only so much you can do without our facing further complications from other private businesses, it would just be unfortunate to have to move.

So, just to clarify, we are asking for 5 parking spaces, to have the signs up stating it is specifically for Gold House Staff and Deliveries, this is a huge benefit to our timeline and therefor our production line which in turn effects our income.

All we ask is to consider us and give me any helpful information to move forward. We thank you for your time and consideration and the effort to accept our letter of Parking Petition.

We look forward to hearing from you, regardless of the outcome, we appreciate the City Board and their position in this regard.

Kind Regards

Eleni Koxarakis & the Gold House Family.