Appeal for Lease Renewal for The Sweet Spot at 1021 N State Road 7, Margate, Florida 33063 from CRA MEETING 3/13/2024 @7pm

APPEAL FOR BOARD DECISION

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to appeal the recent decision not to renew the lease for my business, The Sweet Spot, located at 1021 N State Road 7, Margate, Florida 33063. As a tenant of seven years with a strong presence in the city of Margate, I am deeply invested in our community's success and have consistently contributed to its economic growth.

Throughout my tenure, The Sweet Spot has served as a beacon of delight for both locals and visitors alike. With a dedicated team of four full-time employees, two of whom are Margate residents, we have diligently adhered to our scheduled operating hours of Wednesday through Sunday, from 11 am to 6 pm, as prominently displayed on our doors, website, and social media platforms. Contrary to assertions made, we have consistently upheld our commitment to these hours, with the exception of Thanksgiving week, during which we provide our hardworking staff with a well-deserved paid vacation. When done, the Thanksgiving closure is noted on our door, answering machine, website, as well as social media pages. Our consistency with our scheduled hours can be verified via our social media Instagram page(@sweetspotmargate), which is where we list the daily menu of our bakery items. Despite the strain that Co-Vid put on many businesses, The Sweet Spot was not only able to preserve, we were able to give back to the City of Margate with our annual Back to School drive where we provided 50 backpacks filled with school supplies to residents of Margate. We also work closely with local schools to aid in fundraisers in which we donate 25% of all proceeds generated during particular "school participation nights" hosted by The Sweet Spot bakery. We have also started a program called The Fairy Cake Mother where we provide custom special occasion cakes to families that can not afford them, giving first priority to applicants that are Margate residents. This is a program that we started just this month and have already received an outpouring of applicants. I wish to continue to serve the community of Margate while my business resides in it.

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I also wish to address concerns regarding late rent payments. While the demands of establishing a second location have indeed required a significant portion of my time, I assure you that these obligations have not compromised the daily operations of The Sweet Spot. However, the necessity of paying rent solely via money order has, regrettably, led to occasional delays. Despite my proactive efforts to explore alternative payment options (such as advance lump sum payments), as evidenced by my inquiries with property manager Jim Nardi, I was informed that such arrangements were not feasible at the time.

In light of these challenges, I have taken decisive action by appointing a dedicated financial manager to oversee all aspects of bakery operations, including timely rent payments. This strategic measure ensures that moving forward, rent obligations will be met punctually and without fail.

I am deeply grateful for the support extended by the city to businesses within the CRA, and I humbly request that my lease be reconsidered for renewal. The Sweet Spot remains committed to fostering a vibrant and prosperous community, and I am hopeful that this appeal will be met with understanding and favorable consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lykeisha Jenrette

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