

From: Chauncey Carter  
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 3:58 PM  
To: Westlake-Power, Barb; Katolyk, Orest  
Subject: Attn: Orest Katolyk regarding Pet Paradise  
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Orest,

My name is Chauncey Carter and I am a Job Developer/Employment specialist for a non profit that works with people with disabilities and barriers called ATN Access Inc. I am writing to you on behalf of Margaret Rubio, the owner of Pet Paradise located at 1080 Adelaide Street, Unit 22, London N5Y 2N1.

Margaret contacted me with great concern that there is a group of individuals that do not feel her independently owned and operated store, (which sells companion animals) is a valuable asset to the community.

I am writing to tell you about my experience with Pet Paradise and the wonderful employer partnership that Margaret and my agency has. As a Job Developer for ATN Access Inc. I work with individuals who have disabilities and face barriers to employment because of this. One of my barriers is finding employers who are open to participating and hiring based on 'abilities' and not focusing on the 'disabilities'. When I approached Margaret regarding the work I was doing and that I was looking for employers in the community to participate in helping me create working employment opportunities, she was completely on board. Margaret understands how difficult it can be for individuals that have disabilities and wanted to offer her place of business to help my clients learn employment skills in a comfortable working environment.

My agency along with myself are a great supporter of Margaret and our Employer partnership. Not only has she been a supporter of our programs and work place experiences; Margaret has also hired one of our clients who is still employed with her store today.

Additionally, I've attached documentation regarding companion animals and how important the physiological, psychological and social benefits are to individuals facing any type of barrier.

I am happy to offer any additional comments or have any formal letters written on behalf of Margaret Rubio and Pet Paradise at your request. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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