

February 13, 2023

Mr. Roger Francis
President
Sysco Corporate
21 Four Seasons Pl Suite 400,
Etobicoke, ON, M9B 6J8

Sent as email attachment to info@sysco.ca

Dear Mr. Francis,

Re: illegal parking by Sysco driver in bike lane endangering city cyclists

On at least two occasions, one of your drivers has been asked to not park in the Bloor St. West bike lane.

The most recent occasion was at 11:18am on February 13, 2023 in front of the Freshii Restaurant at 378 Bloor West. (On January 16, 2023, a Sysco truck was parked on a nearby stretch of the Bloor bike lane at Brunswick Avenue, a section of the road that is particularly narrow and forces cars into the opposing motor lane.)

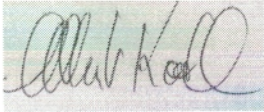
We presume that it is not your company policy to illegally park in bike lanes. In fact, most of your drivers are quite respectful, finding side streets and alleyways to make deliveries safely. Illegal parking in bike lanes not only appropriates to your company's use space that has been set aside for city residents that get around by bicycle, but it endangers cyclists who are forced to skirt around such vehicles and thereby to risk being hit from behind by other vehicles.

The specific driver in today's case simply shrugged when asked, by the general manager of the Bloor Annex BIA, to move to a very close-by side-street. The driver said to a police officer (who witnessed the exchange) to "give me a ticket". The officer, not satisfied with this reply, ordered him to move.

We also note that a fire truck on an emergency call passed the very same area a mere five seconds after the police asked your driver to move. Had the Sysco truck still been in the bike lane, the fire truck would have been blocked from proceeding. It should not take an order from police for your drivers to have regard to the safety of other road users.

We would appreciate your advice on your current policy about parking in bike lanes. We hope that drivers who act illegally will be advised, in clear terms, about the illegality of this conduct and the danger it poses to city residents who cycle.

Sincerely,



Albert Koehl
Community Bikeways



Brian Burchell
Bloor Annex Business Improvement Area (BIA)