

April 09, 2009

Antonia Pollak
Commissioner
Boston Department of Parks & Recreation

1 page via fax: [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner Pollak:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our thousands of members and supporters in the Boston area with a proposal that would raise much-needed funds for the city of Boston while inspiring visitors to respect Boston's beloved waterfowl. We'd like to pay to erect a permanent sign behind the bronze *Make Way for Ducklings* statue. The sign will read, "Say 'No' to Foie Gras!"

Boston loves ducks. However, a few Boston restaurants continue to sell foie gras—French for "fat liver"—which is made by shoving pipes down these gentle birds' throats and pumping in enormous amounts of grain and fat several times a day. This force-feeding causes the ducks' livers to become diseased and painfully engorged. Investigations at every foie gras farm in the U.S. and many farms across Europe have documented sick, dead, and dying animals—some with gaping wounds in their necks caused by the feeding pipes. In New York State, ducks were videotaped being jammed into wire cages. Their beaks were bloody, and their wings were twisted together. At another foie gras farm, birds were found dangling from wires as blood spilled from their neck wounds onto the live birds beneath them.

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI denounced foie gras production as a violation of biblical principles. People worldwide are increasingly associating foie gras with extreme cruelty to animals. California recently banned the sale and production of foie gras (effective in 2012), and foie gras production has also been outlawed in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.K., and numerous companies worldwide have stopped selling it. World-renowned chefs Wolfgang Puck and Charlie Trotter have removed foie gras from their menus because of the cruelty inherent in its production. The city of Boston can join this growing chorus of compassion by allowing our anti-foie gras sign to be displayed.

Please take inspiration from Michael, the kind police officer in *Make Way for Ducklings* who protected the mallard family, and work with us to open Boston residents' eyes to the suffering that ducks endure to produce foie gras. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Reiman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Reiman
Executive Vice President