March 9, 2007

Jerry Mrozinski

McDonald’s Hamburgers

1225 1st Avenue SE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RE: Accessibility Issues

February 27th Meeting

Dear Mr. Mrozinski:

Thank you for meeting with us on Tuesday, February 27th. We know that you are busy and we greatly appreciate the attention you are giving to these important matters. We value your commitment to providing equal access to your restaurant for all McDonald's customers.

As we discussed, persons with disabilities currently face some daunting challenges at the 1st Ave McDonald's. The problems center around three areas: the entrance, the bathrooms, and the parking lot. Below is a recap of the particular problems associated with each area and the solutions we discussed.

**Entrance**

We were greatly encouraged by your cooperation and your offer to remove the inner doors from the vestibule. The entrance's current cramped design presents an enormous barrier to entry for persons with disabilities. Removing the inner doors will eliminate the most significant obstacle that people with disabilities encounter at the restaurant and will provide easier access for customers with small children.

We also appreciate your willingness to remove the rocks and pebbles and redesign the area near the entrance to provide greater maneuvering room and space for people who use manual or power wheelchairs. If you alter only one entrance, please provide a sign to clearly notify customers which door is the most accessible.

Substituting concrete for the current brick paving would also be very helpful. The entrance has become very uneven and may be dangerous for customers, especially in slippery conditions. Creating an even surface would provide safer and easier access for the general public in addition to disabled customers.

**Bathrooms:**

The most significant problem associated with the bathrooms is the shelf and wall between the booths and the bathroom entrances. The limited room requires people in wheelchairs to back up to the point of possible collision with people exiting the other restroom. Removing the shelves or a section of the booth seating will be safer and more convenient for all customers and employees. We understand that the shelf is a decorative piece that could be removed easily and that this modification will not require major structural work or expense.

Thank you for offering to replace the toilets in the bathrooms. The current toilets, particularly in the women's bathroom, can be dangerous for people when they try to transfer from their wheelchair to the toilet seat that is mounted low to the ground. As we discussed, the toilet seat should be between 17'' and 19'' from the finished floor.

The other problems that we addressed are the door handles on the stalls and the location and placement of the toilet paper and other dispensers. The handles on the stalls should be replaced with door hardware that does not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. At the meeting we were unable to say with certainty the best location for the toilet paper dispenser. The current ADA accessibility guidelines are not very helpful on this issue. We have attached an excerpt from *Access for Everyone*, a helpful guide to the ADA by two architecture professors, to provide you with guidance on bathroom fixtures. The materials cite to the 2004 guidelines, which have not yet been adopted by the Department of Justice, but which are much more helpful than the current guidelines on this issue.

**Parking Lot**

There are two issues related to the parking lot that we addressed. First, one more accessible parking spot should be created. Second, one of the three accessible parking spots should provide an 8' access aisle and be properly designated as a van accessible space. Thank you for your willingness to make these changes. We realize that re-striping the parking lot must wait until the weather improves. We will be watching for these changes in the spring.

**Thank You**

Thank you for addressing these issues. The cooperation your company has shown should serve as a model for other Cedar Rapids businesses. The changes you make to the McDonald's will not go unnoticed or unacknowledged.

We look forward to the day when these modifications have been completed. You asked us to give you a few months to finish the work. We will contact you towards the end of April to see what progress has been made. Please contact

Andy Elsbecker at the legal clinic with any questions you might have by calling 319-335-9023 or sending email to andrew-elsbecker@uiowa.edu.

Sincerely,

Karin Springfield on behalf of

Wayne Springfield

Michael Chalupa

Sally Christenson

Luvoria Sanders and

Pam Hand

Andy Elsbecker

Student Legal Intern

University of Iowa Legal Clinic

CC: PADS Executive Committee

Len Sandler, University of Iowa Clinical Law Program