

On Wednesday February 21, Café Con Mel shut our doors indefinitely as we reevaluate our options and recover from a heartbreaking decision. We chose to step away from a 4-year passion project of sharing delicious food with our community in Guilderland.

The decision was made after a Guilderland Public Library employee went through our mail, stole a point-of-sale tablet, and hid the tablet in their work office for weeks. This tablet was part of a partnership with Grub Hub.

Café Con Mel reported the incident to library administration and to the Guilderland Police Department. The library's response was to offer this employee an early retirement package. It was at that point we knew it was unsafe to continue operations. Our location was regularly reported to the Health Department by library staff for bogus violations all of which were unsubstantiated among numerous other disturbing interferences into our business.

Some attendees at tonight's board meeting wanted to know more about the contract between GLS and Café Con Mel. Here are the facts.

We paid rent of \$200 per month including utilities during a 1-year trial period. This \$200 number was determined by the Guilderland Public Library. Utilities were included in the rent cost because it was determined that the café could not have a separate utility hookup from the library. **After the end of this 1-year trial period, GLS and Café Con Mel both agreed to revise the rent figure UP if sales were significantly better than projected.**

We deeply regret having to leave our space in the Guilderland Public Library. This decision takes food out of our family's mouths. We stand by it because no one, especially our employees, should be victims of discrimination and harassment.