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Respectfully submitted by:
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My husband and I have been in the book business in Harvard square since 1976. We are also residents of Harvard Square and were neighbors of Margaret Rey until her death in 1996, 6 months after she oversaw the opening of our store: Curious George. For 15 years we have been a destination for tourists and neighbors alike.

One year ago this past February our landlord neglected to renew our yearly lease. At the time he made little of it and we had no reason to suspect there would be a problem. What we didn't know was that the building's trust, in concert with the city, was planning a major rebuild of the sidewalk, thus the space beneath the sidewalks would need to be reinforced. Because we have no lease we, as tenants-at-will have no rights and have not been privy to the planning of this major project.

For a year and a half we have been given contradictory instructions. Initially we were told we would maintain operations in areas not directly underneath the sidewalk. Then we were told to remove all our storage and overstock, which we did. Then we were told nothing would happen

for 6 months. Finally in January after a year of disruption we were told we would have to vacate the entire downstairs, which is all of our offices, receiving, employee break area, and 1/3 of our selling space, as well as our bathrooms. (As you can imagine it is difficult to run a children's store with no bathroom.) Sadly, we have also been forced to reduce our incredible staff.

As a result we are now renting a portion of an office above our store and are in a situation which has left us in debt to our vendors, and completely in the dark as to the start and finish dates of the project.

As of now the build-out hasn't begun. We've had stanchions along the sides of the store for a year and a half reducing by even more the parking places available to our customers. We have spent significant amounts of our own money on the rental of office space and trying to support and rewire our computer system, upon which the store depends. We have had no assistance from our landlords. This has all happened coming off of a recession and as of this moment we are looking very seriously at closing our operations within the next few weeks.....unless a benefactor comes to our aid.