

-----A LETTER OF APOLOGY TO MY EASTLAKE COMMUNITY-----

My name is Dave Mendoza, and I own Pazzo's Restaurant at 2307 Eastlake Ave. E.. Many of you in the Eastlake community who will be reading this letter, have known me for upwards of twenty years. I am currently incarcerated at the SeaTac Federal Detention Center, for the crime of importing Canadian marijuana into the United States. My suspicion is that, at the time of the publication of this letter, I will have been sentenced to 14 years to a federal prison.

The intent of this letter is not to seek remorse, but rather to express a sincere apology to my Eastlake community for what I have done.

I have owned Pazzo's Restaurant since 1987, when it was originally established. We (Mickey Blackburn, Frank Maher, John Gunner, Tim Young, and myself) personally remodeled and devised the concept of having a "laid-back" pizzeria and pub environment within the Eastlake neighborhood. Ever since, we have been afforded and blessed with a remarkable following of patrons; mostly, if not entirely, comprised of people from our community. I, and the restaurant, are extremely grateful and appreciative of our patrons and of our neighborhood as a whole. I have great admiration for those within our community, who have helped us at Pazzo's, organize and participate in the many social events, such as the Eastlake Shake. To these specific individuals, I want them to know, I am truly sorry that I have let them down due to my behavior.

I would like to thank specifically, Jules at Lake Union Mail, Teri at the 14 Carrot Cafe, and all the owners/employee's at both the Zoo Tavern and Pazzo's Restaurant, who have made a consorted effort to inquire about my well-being. I have also received, literally, close to one hundred letters of support (a few of condonement, and that's fine too) from individuals within the Eastlake community, whom I have never met personally. Again, thank you for your support, thoughts, understanding and advice.

I am truly sorry for my actions, the results of those decisions, and the breach of trust, in which you as a neighborhood had given me. No matter where you sit on the morality, or legality of marijuana, I still broke the laws of the United States, and more importantly, the integrity of my community, and the trust of my family. For this, I sincerely hope that you, as my community, will accept my deepest apologies.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Dave Mendoza