

A Special Message From Hot Diggity!

Hot Diggity has been here on South Street for three and a half years. During that time we have become part of the Philadelphia dinging scene, art of hot dog culture in America, and most importantly part of your neighborhood and community. It is with a heavy heart that we must close the doors to Hot Diggity. This was the hardest decision we have ever had to make. We will miss our staff and amazing customers more than anything. I loved working at Hot Diggity. I loved helping guests relive old food memories with our dogs and forge new memories with their families. I loved working with our staff through the good times and the bad. I would like to take time to thank all the people that have helped us, supported us, and been there for us over these past years. Thank you **Mom & Dad** for always being there. You have always been supportive of everything I have done. You could not ask for better parents. My partner, **Tom**, thank you for everything you gave to Hot Diggity over the years. Developing this restaurant with you was an adventure and to think it all started on a fire escape in New York City after a chill cook off. **Kelly**, thank you for always being there and helping when we bit off more than either of us could chew. This put us through the hardest times of our lives and we came out better on the other side. **Kyle & Annelise**, thank you for being a great brother and always being ready to lend a helping hand. **Katie & Billy**, you helped us build the place from the ground up, scraping the floors and tearing down walls. You remained supportive all through the years. Thank you **Jim & Lee** for all the help. You helped us paint walls, haul equipment and so much more. **Gerry**, thank you for giving a home to Electric Boogaloo. Waking up at those early hours was never easy and we couldn't have done it with out you. **Chris & Nancy** thank you for helping us build all the tables and chairs and walls. You were always there for us when we looked for guidance. **Matt & Emily** thank you for being great friends and championing what we did here. **Mark**, thank you for being a fantastic manager. You learned a lot in your time here and became a guiding force in the kitchen. **Linnell**, thank you for always being a positive presence at the restaurant. **Blair**, thank you for always challenging our points of view and being a rock in the kitchen. We could always count on you to get the job done. **Don**, thank you for always being of even temperament and giving our customers the best treatment at all times. **Curran**, thank you for always making sure the restaurant was in the best shape possible every morning. You were able to put up with me which shows you are an individual with strong character and even stronger resilience. **Jake**, we have gone through a lot together, you pushed what we could do here at the restaurant including a innovative craft soda program. I know we had our hard times together but you are an amazing individual and you have a bright career ahead of you. **Adria**, you always were able to make us laugh and were one of our hardest most steadfast employees. Your attention to detail was unsurpassed. **Dan**, you were with us from day one and had one of the best interviews ever. "I am an all american man and love hot dogs, so even if I don't get the job you will see me all the time" Since that day in June 2011 we have seen a lot of changes at HD and in each other. I was honored to be part of your culinary journey and I wish you all the success in the world as you continue that journey. **Julian**, you started as a customer and then became part of our staff. Your sharp wit was always a welcomed addition to HD. **Brad**, thank you for bringing a new level of customer service to HD. I value your hard work as much as I do our friendship. Best of luck with all you do and I know you will make a great father. **Ruben**, I know you can't read english but you were a life saver in the kitchen. Thanks for all the hard work and tireless dishwashing. **Max**, thank you for being our kitchen manager in the early days of Hot Diggity. You helped shape us into what we became today. I will always consider you a friend and miss you. Thank you **Hawk Krall** for all the amazing art you have produced over the years. You gave the restaurant a quality like no other. It was an amazing journey and we are glad to have made it with you. **Mike**, thank you for all your support over the years. It was an honor serving The South Street Headhouse District with you and I wish the best for your efforts and the district. Thank you for stepping out of your roll as executive director of South Street and into the roll of friend. **Dan**, thank you for being a champion of the street and always a positive force for change. I have learned a lot from you and always knew you were someone I could confide in. **Krystal**, thank you for all you did to support the district and Hot Diggity. We managed to put on three hot dog cook offs, each bigger and better then the last, together. Thank you to the **SSHD Board Members** for always putting South Street first and sacrificing your time and energy to help the community. I am grateful to have been part of such a group and proud of the work we all accomplished together. Thank you **John Foy** being a community leader and an inspiration to all of us young restaurant owners. You have a truly special place on South Street and I hope it thrives for many more years. Thank you for all the support we have received from the food community over the years. Thank you to **Philadelphia Magazine** for naming us the "Best of Philly" for two years. Thank you to **Foozoo, Eater, The Insider, Drew Lazor 22ndandPhilly, Danya, Zagat, City Paper, Philadelphia Weekly**, and all the other food press in Philadelphia for always supporting our efforts. Thank you to our amazing customers who have supported us over the years. Thank you **Walt**, for being perhaps the single longest customer we have had. It was always a pleasure serving you. We all knew your order by heart: 1 Texas Hold 'Em, Small Fries, Poblano Creme, Small Diet Coke. **Jeff**, I still remember having to put your daughters veggie dogs in the fridge to cool down because they were "too hot" for here when she was younger. It is amazing that we have actually seen her grow up right before our eyes. Thank you to the **Cardin Theater Group**, including **Georgie, Oz, and all the Cardin's**. You were our first super fans and it was always an amazing and thrilling experience when the group came barreling through our doors. **Joel Spivak**, you were one of the founding members of South Street and a true champion of Philadelphia and Hot Dog History. It was always great to hear your stories and your passion for hot dogs. **Ari Miller & 1732 Meats** thank you for being a great friend and supporter. It was an honor to talk to you about your company's plans and being able to see how your craft has evolved over the years. You have a wonderful family and I will miss seeing their faces in Hot Diggity. **Jeremy, Doug, Henrik, & The Crew of Brauhaus Schmitz** thank you for always being good neighbors and supportive of our small business. You are a fantastic restaurant, one of my favorite in the city. You always made me feel at home and you are a new South Street treasure. A huge thank you to **Erin O'Shea & Percy St. BBQ**. You were supportive of us before we even opened our doors. For years you cooked up our old faithful BBQ sauce for us to use at our restaurant. Spending New Years Eve with you and your staff, drinking champagne out of a can will always be one of my most cherished memories. You are an amazing chef and a true friend. Thank you to the crew of **Southwark**. It was always an honor to provide you with late night staff meals to keep the crew running. Thank you for giving me the opportunity early on to cook non-hot dog food with you in your kitchen. Thank you **Marc Summers** for being a champion of Hot Diggity since day one. You always sung our praises and made our hot dog cook offs such a huge success. Thank you to all the chefs who have collaborated with us over the years, **Peter Woolsey, Scott Schroeder, Nick Marci, Lucio Palazzo, Jeremy Nolan, Erin O'Shea, Stalin Bedon, Matt Davis, Mitch Prensky, Pizza Brain, 1732 Meats**. It was an honor to cook your food. Thank you to **Mary-Beth**. We all new your hot dog - a veggie windy, no onions. We were honored and flabbergasted when you got that hot dog tattooed on your arm! Thanks you **Jillian Beth** for always being one of our steadfast veggie and vegan supporters. Many thanks to the years of support to **Matt & Alicia**. It was always great to see you two in the restaurant and getting to know you over the years. Thank you **Peter Serpico & Rich Fell**. It was always good to talk shop with you two and it's too bad we will never know what the Hot Diggity Serpico Dog would look like. South Street is lucky to have such a fantastic restaurant and destination. Thank you **Bob Petkosky & Genny** you are two of the best friends someone could ask for an thank you for designing such a great logo for our restaurant. Thanks **Eamon & Alex** you are great friends and produced some of our favorite Hot Diggity art work. Thanks **Matt Davis** for always bring us your charcuterie and being a great friend and a great chef. Thank you **Scott** and the great crew at the **South Street UPS Store** for helping us with all our printing. If you ever need any graphics work and printing done, Scott is a great guy and always willing to help. **Holly Moore** thank you for being a champion of greasy spoons and hot dogs. **Catherine Lee** it was always a treat to serve you in our restaurant. As much of a treat as eating in yours. I was always glad we could give you a break from all your hard work. Thank you **Habri Shin** for all your support. You are a true hot dog champion. Thank you **Stalin Bedon & Nomad Pizza**, it was always a treat to trade dogs for pies and to talk shop. Thanks **Barry** and all the people who came to our bad movie nights. It was a treat to share our love of bad movies with such an awesome crowd. **Mitch & Jenn** thanks for being great neighbors great chefs, and great friends. We always loved seeing a familiar face when out vending. I'll miss serving you up a piece of home. **Mitch**, with our Bronx Bomber. **Vic**, thanks for being the best mail carrier in Philadelphia. You were always a shot of positivity every morning. We always looked forward to hearing what we dubbed "Vic's Words of Wisdom" every week. **Darrel**, you have always been a great industry friend. We always enjoyed hearing about your culinary travels and adventures. **Vinny**, thanks for celebrating so many milestones with us. Your reaction on Hot Dog Paradise is the best! Thank you to our best neighbor, **Becca**, you will always be the bomb diggity. **Dave**, you were biggest fan of our pineapple dipping sauce ever and you ate at our place so many times you requested making your own dogs up so you could have something new. There are so many more guests and people to remember. The father who gets two Windy Cities a plain dog a small lemonade to slip with his daughter, the pawn shop owner who always had a joke stored up for us, the customer who got an extra shot of sriracha in his HD Sauce, the woman who got a dog with pepper hash before her weekly art class, the family that came in every Sunday and got veggie dogs topped with tortilla strips. There are so many memories, and so many people I would never be able to list them all.

As I have written this letter I have realized that I am not just losing a restaurant. It is so much more. A restaurant, even your small local hot dog shop, is more than just a few walls, tables, and chairs. It is more than the cooks cooking your favorite meal, waiters and waitresses hustling a bustling. More than a trendy menu, more than the dining room's soundtrack, and more than a few instagram pictures. This restaurant, to me at least, was a collection of experiences and relationships. Relationships with families. Relationships with individuals. Relationships with our customers, our neighborhood, other businesses, and our staff. Relationships with our staff that were sometimes trying, sometimes joyful, sometimes exhausting. But they were always experiences we went through together and came out on the other side better then we started. Our relationships with our guests have always touched me. We have recollected with customers their favorite memories of hot dogs together. We have recollected memories of family long gone and times spent at baseball games eating hot dogs. We have reminded our guests of home, tasting a piece of their past they never thought they would have again. These experiences. These relationships. They culminate in what amounts to a whole micro world. Our restaurant, like all restaurants, is a world unto itself existing in a larger world. I will be very sad to see that world disappear.

Thank you all for being part of Hot Diggity these past three and half years. I will remember all of you and the impact you have had on my life. Thank you for allowing us to serve you. It was our pleasure.

Hot Diggity!