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Is the Wal-Mart in North Tampa unfriendly to Handicapped Motorists?



(14941 North Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618*/ 813.968.3544)

The parking lanes at this particular Wal-Mart is *user unfriendly* for handicapped motorists and completely messed up. Three handicapped spots and blocked by a single car. I live in North Tampa in an area called Carrolwood. I am a frequent shopper at the Wal-Mart listed above. The store manager is Ivette Miranda.

I am a disabled with a hip injury and I have a handicapped sticker on my car. But often when I go to park my car in the handicapped lanes at this Wal-Mart, I find one car covering three handicapped lanes. Even when I circle around, I see the same thing. I am forced to find a spot to park very far back from the store. I use a walking cane.

It is not the fault of the single handicapped driver who parks in the middle of a large handicapped parking spot. There aren't signs saying that they can't. It's a poor designed that Wal-Mart cares not to correct.

In almost a year, I have repeated complained about the situation to the store manager. I have spoken to other handicapped motorists as we walked to the store from far away. They had the same degree of disgust about the parking. The store manager, Ivette Miranda 813 968 3544, has been giving me royal runarounds, bogus and silly excuses. It appears she has a list of revolving excuses. Each time I speak with the manager, she writes down my name and says someone from corporate will contact me. I am still waiting for the call. Whenever I go inside the store, I make it my business to tell Ms. Miranda or an employee at the service desk of my constant complaint.

I personally feel that my handicapped complaints are being trashed. The manager's three top excuses that come up the most are; the oversized parking spots are to accommodate senior citizens' buses, and the number two excuse is, the contractors did it that way without permission from Wal-Mart. The third seems to be, that there is a county zoning law, for that layout, and Wal-Mart has no controlled over it. The manager did call me three weeks ago with some unconvincing mumble jumble with the contractor and county version part 4 again.

Notice the parking lot pictures in the page 3. See how these two cars are taking up the spaces for 6 separate handicapped drivers. These messed up patterns are repeated multiple times in the store's parking lot.



This forces 4 handicapped drivers to park much further back from the store. This pattern is repeated.

See below a user friendly handicapped parking layout.



But look at the picture closely and see the one car parked in front of the two handicapped cars blocking 3 cars from parking there.

In all the times that I have visited that store at different times (day and night), I have never seen any large van or senior citizens' bus parked in those large spots. If there is a need for a bus of this nature, I could see a special designated lane for that. But don't create a situation where 3 unsuspecting handicapped motorists park and block 12 handicapped parking spots.

I don't know if my constant complaint will ever be honestly looked into by the manager, Ivette Miranda. I can't say if this messed up and unfriendly parking for handicapped motorists are in other Wal-Mart locations. But I and many other handicapped drivers are tired of having to walk an extra 25 plus car lanes to shop at Wal-Mart.

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*not actual store in picture

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