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# Making Zagat Accessible

*Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner calls on Zagat Survey to include accessibility criteria in its ratings*

Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner is urging Zagat Survey, one of the nation's leading publishers of restaurant, hotel, and nightlife reviews to make its listings relevant for a neglected segment of American consumers: wheelchair users.

The Assembly Member, who has cerebral palsy, pointed out that while users of Zagat's books and website can find a wide range of information about establishments in New York and around the world, one thing they can't learn is whether a restaurant is accessible.

"Imagine planning your evening around a visit to that great restaurant you read about in the Zagat guide, only to arrive and find you're out of luck because it's down an inaccessible stairway or out of reach behind a narrow door," Assembly Member Kellner said. "Like many New Yorkers, I rely on the Zagat Survey to help me choose among this city's enormous and wonderful variety of restaurants. But people with mobility impairments need to know whether they can count on a restaurant to be accessible."

In a letter to Tim and Nina Zagat, Co-Founders of Zagat Survey, Assembly Member Kellner called on the company to determine whether establishments under review meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines with regard to restaurant entrances, floor plans and proper bathroom accommodations. Those that do, he said, should be denoted with a universally-understood wheelchair icon. In the letter, Kellner also pointed out that while the Zagat website includes a wide variety of search criteria for restaurants – such as whether a restaurant has "outdoor seating," "dramatic interiors," "teen appeal," or "gracious hosts" – there is no function that allows site users to search for disabled-accessible establishments.

Highlighting ADA-compliant businesses and including accessibility in its online search criteria would be smart business for Zagat Survey. While the ADA has greatly enhanced the number of accessible public establishments, many businesses remain inaccessible to millions of Americans with mobility impairments. By including accessibility as a feature in its reviews of restaurants, the Zagat Survey would be expanding its product to an untapped group of consumers.

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“The Zagat Survey is in my estimation the most influential restaurant guide in the world, and by taking these steps to include accessibility in its reviews it could not only make its listings considerably more useful to a large group of new readers, it could ultimately encourage inaccessible restaurants to take the necessary steps so they meet ADA guidelines,” Assembly Member Kellner said. “Zagat Survey can demonstrate that it is in step with an era in which accessibility considerations have become an important part of public life.”

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