



## **Randallstown**

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Immediate Release

### **Randallstown NAACP's-- Task Force on Revitalization of Security Square Mall**

Woodlawn, Md. -The coronavirus pandemic is speeding up the demise of America's struggling shopping malls, which could deal a devastating blow to some communities that depend on them.

When a mall goes dark, a community loses more than just a place to shop and grab a slice of pizza at the food court. In many neighborhoods, the mall is an economic engine, hiring hundreds, if not thousands, of workers and providing a significant amount of dollars to the local tax base.

Security Square Mall is a mall in Woodlawn, Baltimore County, Maryland, which opened in 1972. The mall features over 100 stores and restaurants, as well as a food court. Security Square Mall is located adjacent to the North American School of Trades. The anchor stores are Bayit Furniture, Set the Captives Free Outreach Center, Burlington, and Macy's.

Security Square Mall has been in decline since JCPenneys, Bennigans and IHOP closed in the early 2000s. There is one vacant anchor store that was once Sears. Bennigans and IHOP have been vacant for 20 years and have become an eyesore. Numerous code violations including trash, potholes, illegally parked cars and track trailers plague the

appearance of the mall. “Malls die slowly, generally over a period of years,” said Lacy Beasley, president of the real estate advisory firm Retail Strategies. “At first one anchor closes and then another. For a mall to shut down completely, the mall has already been declared dead by the customer.”

Security Square Mall is a prime piece of real estate which is an important hub to the community. To this end, the Randallstown NAACP is starting a Task Force on Revitalization of Security Square Mall. This Task Force will look into barriers to revitalization and break down those barriers by bringing all groups together. The task force will offer input on the enhancement of Security Mall for retail, recreation, economic growth, aesthetics, public health, and ecological productivity, coordinated plans and interests affecting the greater community. These efforts will give the residents of the 1st district and Baltimore County a shopping experience that will make us all proud.

“Baltimore County residents in every neighborhood deserve vibrant communities with a high quality of life and a robust local economy,” said Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski. “We look forward to working with the Task Force on the Revitalization of Security Square Mall, because we know that it can thrive as a world class shopping center and community hub, and we look forward to continuing our work with the community to revitalize this important regional anchor.”

## TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Mrs. Danielle Singley, **Chair**, Randallstown NAACP

Mr. Ryan Coleman, President, Randallstown NAACP

Senator Charles Sydnor III, District 44B

Delegate Pat Young, District 44B

Delegate Sheila Ruth, District 44B

Mrs. Linda V Forsyth, Chief of Staff, Senator Delores G. Kelley, District 10

Mrs. Kimberly Shiloh, Legislative Director, Delegate Benjamin Brooks, District 10

Mrs. Shirley Supik, President, Liberty Road Community Council

Mrs. Mary Breland, Acting President, Westview Park Improv. & Civic Association

Mrs. Robin Harvey, Commissioner, Baltimore County Commission for Women

Mrs. Barbara Hopkins, Executive Director of Neighborspace of Baltimore County  
Kirk Mitchell, Coordinator, Office of Community Engagement, Baltimore County