

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact:
Joe Bell
Director of Corporate Communications
For Meadowbrook Mall
jbelle@cafarocompany.com
330-747-2661 ext. 771
724-730-4532 (Mobile)

Response to Misleading Union Protest at Meadowbrook Mall

Recently, patrons of Meadowbrook Mall in Bridgeport, WV may have encountered members of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters distributing handbills critical of a construction project at the mall. The information contained in these handbills is scurrilous, inflammatory and flat-out wrong. Contrary to the claim of the union handbill, the construction of a new Marshall's department store is creating new jobs and providing good wages for workers of the region. The general contractor for this project, JJO Construction, provides its employees with fair, competitive wages and benefits, as well as paying for all workers' compensation insurance and all health benefits required by the state. In addition, the vast majority of subcontractors involved in this project are based in West Virginia and their workers are local residents.

Meadowbrook Mall has always sought to hire responsible local contractors when possible. We strongly request bidders to utilize local subcontractors and suppliers who are able to provide quality work at the most reasonable price, without discriminating based on their union signatory status.

In preparation for this construction project, more than 130 different companies were invited to bid on metal stud/drywall framing, demolition and carpentry work. Only

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16 companies bothered to submit bids. Only two union signatory companies showed interest in bidding. Despite this, representatives of the carpenter's union subsequently demanded a meeting with JJO Construction. At that meeting on July 9th, the general contractor graciously offered union representatives the opportunity to have their members perform carpentry trim work on the project, even though bids had already been awarded. Union leaders have yet to accept that offer.

We believe our loyal customers deserve to know the truth: The owners of Meadowbrook Mall are committed to provide a comfortable, high-quality shopping, dining and entertainment experience. Our ability to attract a nationally recognized retailer such as Marshall's is predicated on our ability to offer attractive rental terms, which are directly correlated to the cost of constructing the retail space. We have been a part of this community for over a quarter century, and we always strive to enhance the economic well-being of our friends and neighbors in the local economy.

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