

July 28, 2016

Winston Fisher
Chair, NYC Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue – 36th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Fisher,



I am writing to offer my support for the application of General Growth Properties for Empire State Development Grant Funds for the expansion of the Staten Island Mall.

The Staten Island Mall has served as the foremost shopping destination for our community for decades, filling the retail needs of Staten Island families. The 427,000 square foot expansion and redevelopment will provide Staten Islanders with new retail options and additional amenities, including a movie theater, restaurants, a food market, and a public piazza.

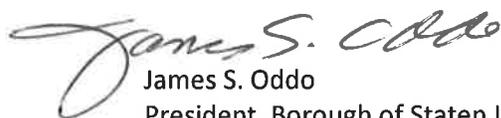
Funding from the Economic State Development Grant will support the development of Phase II of the project. Phase II includes the construction of the cinema and the new the parking garage, both of which are crucial to the Mall's ongoing success.

The expansion of the Staten Island Mall expansion will be a wonderful complement to the economic revitalization of the borough of Staten Island. The project is expected to generate nearly \$85 million in direct economic output annually. The redevelopment will result in 560 full-time equivalent construction jobs over the course of the project. Once completed, the Mall will directly support approximately 943 permanent, full- and part-time jobs on site.

Staten Islanders, burdened with a shortage of public transportation, deserve to have quality retail and the entertainment options without leaving the borough. The expansion and redevelopment of the Staten Island Mall—a local institution—will ensure that our community has access to a commercial center that meets our retail needs, while providing New Yorkers with good jobs and career opportunities.

I urge the New York City Regional Economic Development Council to support General Growth Properties' application for funding through the Consolidated Funding Application process and to make the Staten Island Mall expansion a Priority Project for our region.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

