



Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



February 25, 2020

Ms. Dina Berlin
Director, Leasing
Cedar Realty Trust, Inc.
415 Egg Harbor Road, Suite 21A
Sewell, NJ 08080-9211

Dear Ms. Berlin,

In early January 2020 you informed me that two leases were signed to occupy space at the Oakland Mills Village Center. One lease signed with Talento Latinos, a unisex hair salon, and the other with Laundry Force, a laundromat to be in the 5,000 square ft. space next to LA Mart.

The information was shared with the community in an open discussion at the January 14th and January 28th Oakland Mills Board meetings. Several board members investigated a nearby laundromat to learn about the operation and whether that laundromat impacted the village center and community. The findings were concerning and raised red flags regarding the laundromat's negative impact on the center and ongoing security issues frequently involving the Howard County Police.

I discussed the possible laundromat in Oakland Mills with residents and business owners. Both the Oakland Mills Village Manager and I arranged walk through of the center with the County Executive's Director of Constituent Services, the Howard County Councilman representing Oakland Mills and his special assistant, and local law enforcement professionals. All information gathered was shared with the Oakland Mills Board.

After two board meeting discussions and community engagement, on January 28, 2020 **the Oakland Mills Board voted unanimously to oppose the opening of a laundromat in the Oakland Mills Village Center.**

The issues discussed that led the Board's decision were not taken lightly and were based on continued vibrancy of the center to attract shoppers, the need for a laundromat relative to other businesses that could enhance the center and community, and whether such a business would have enough clientele (all surrounding complexes and properties in Oakland Mills have laundry facilities within units/homes or with each building) and, safety and security concerns that a 24/7 operation with one employee would negatively impact the center and surrounding businesses and community.

As always, I value the relationship we have with you and Olen Clark. Please feel free to contact me so that we can continue to have ongoing conversations about the Village Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon L. Edelson", is shown on a light-colored rectangular background.

Jonathan L. Edelson, Chair
Oakland Mills Board of Directors

cc: Kim Pruim, Director of Constituent Services, Office of the Howard County Executive
Tim Havener, Senior Vice-President, Leasing, Cedar Realty Trust Inc.
Rich Vilaboy, Vice-President, Property Management, Cedar Realty Trust Inc.