



PRESS RELEASE

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City Contact:

Mayor, Robert B. Mielke 715-261-6800

Planning, Community & Economic Development, Christian Schock 715-261-6683

The City of Wausau issues notice of non-performance to Wausau Center Mall

The City of Wausau has issued a notice of non-payment and non-performance to the Wausau Center Mall LLC. This notice gives Wausau Center Mall LLC and its parent, CBL Associates, the opportunity to address outstanding issues connected with the ground lease for Wausau Center. The City had intended to resolve these issues as part of the negotiations for the reinvigoration plan which was approved by the City, but these negotiations have stalled and the unexpected Sears closure announcement has complicated CBL's plans. CBL immediately acknowledged the outstanding issues and noted that they are working to resolve them.

We take this action exactly because there are positive opportunities for the future of Wausau Center and we need to move forward- with or without CBL. So, with staff's recommendation, we issue this notice in hopes of priming discussions for future owners and plans as fast as possible and to place the City in a better position to begin pursuing all our rights and remedies as the ground lessor. The City remains committed to partnering with a strong and equally-committed partner through a reinvigoration process which supports Wausau Center's existing tenants while moving forward proposals for its redevelopment.

As we've noted previously, the City will hold Wausau Center Mall LLC and its parent CBL Associates accountable and ensure that any plan is practical for Wausau Center's future. CBL previously noted their commitment in moving Wausau Center forward, and the City worked hard to develop a deal which could accomplish this goal, but that deal is not progressing as it should. While I don't like the situation that we find ourselves in, I am committed to always defending the City's investment and taxpayer's interests. I want to assure our local businesses, taxpayers and citizens that our staff is examining all future options. My administration and the Council will take next steps carefully and through the public process, and, most importantly, that contrary to negative perceptions, there are positive opportunities we are working on for the future of Wausau Center.

As we've noted before, with more information, everyone can better appreciate the City's position in this process. The City has established a Mall information line which is available to answer your questions, receive feedback, and consider your ideas. The number is 715-261-6688 or send an email to: mall@ci.wausau.wi.us.