

April 1, 2019

Secretary Kelly M. Schulz
Maryland Department of Commerce
401 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Secretary Schulz,

On behalf of the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC), I am writing to express the committee's support for the re-designation of the Odenton Town Center in Anne Arundel County as a BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zone.

Our committee is comprised of Odenton area residents and business owners appointed by our County Executive to oversee the implementation of the Odenton Town Center Master Plan and the development of the Odenton Town Center. Anne Arundel County designated Odenton as the location for one of the County's three Town Centers in 1968. In the years since, many have worked hard planning for the Odenton Town Center, but a variety of circumstances has prevented it from becoming a reality. Many of the long time roadblocks to the Odenton Town Center's development have finally been cleared in the last few years and a number of exciting projects for the town center are now in various stages of planning and development.

During a recent presentation to the OTCAC, representatives from Fort Meade indicated that Fort Meade is not only the national center, but the center of the world for cyber defense. Fort Meade is expecting approximately 2,990 jobs over next six years, of which most are cyber related. Representatives shared that the population has grown by 16,000 employees since 2010. In the next six to seven years, the National Security Agency recapitalization initiative will relocate 7,000 employees in lease space around the Washington, D.C. metro area to the National Security Agency campus, also located in the Odenton area. This will result in approximately 10,000 more vehicles.

As the area attempts to deal with the BRAC and other anticipated growth, the pedestrian and bicycle friendly, mixed-use development called for in the Odenton Town Center Master Plan will bring housing, office, retail, dining and entertainment spaces that will go far in serving the needs of those living and working in the Odenton/Fort Meade area.

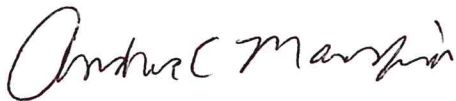
It is fortunate that the development projects for the Odenton Town Center are finally moving forward at this critical time, but there remains one very substantial obstacle for many of the projects planned and that is wholly inadequate infrastructure. This need for new and better infrastructure has been discussed numerous times in our OTCAC meetings. As an area designated by the County to grow into a pedestrian-oriented community, where residents can live, work, and play, there is critical infrastructure that is either absent or significantly underperforming that limits the potential of the area. For example, the Committee routinely discusses the need for more community amenities, like public parks, and pedestrian

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infrastructure such as sidewalks. Providing this type of infrastructure will help facilitate the type of development envisioned for this area.

While the anticipated growth coming to western Anne Arundel County over the next few decades as a result of the BRAC decision carries promise of many positive impacts, it also carries the threat of many burdens and negative impacts. Planning for the growth and providing necessary infrastructure will definitely minimize the negative impacts. Fortunately, the Odenton Town Center Master Plan already provided for substantial growth in this area. If we can overcome the infrastructure inadequacies, we will be situated well to deal with the challenges presented by the growth and able to enjoy the quality of life offered by a thriving town center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea E. Mansfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea E. Mansfield
Chair
Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee

Cc: Philip R. Hager, Planning and Zoning Officer, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning
and Zoning
Jerry Walker, President/CEO, Anne Arundel County Economic Development
Corporation