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MEIJER INC TO PURCHASE FORMER SEARS PROPERTY SITE

MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OH --- In a groundbreaking multi-million dollar, public-private agreement, the City of Middleburg Heights and Meijer Inc. have reached a deal for the Michigan-based retailer to purchase a 15-acre parcel in the Southland Business District.

As part of the \$5.5 million agreement, Meijer will purchase the former Sears property with plans for a future 160,000-square-foot supercenter complete with an additional 20,000-square-foot garden center.

“We’re extremely excited to welcome Meijer to our community and give our residents what they have been consistently requesting ever since Sears and Kmart closed, a one-stop shopping experience in Middleburg Heights,” according to Mayor Matt Castelli. “The redevelopment of the Sears property was our last opportunity to bring a supercenter back to our community and we’re incredibly pleased that we were able to accomplish this.

City officials, particularly Mayor Castelli and Director of Economic Development Charles Bichara, worked tirelessly to methodically pave the way for this transformational project. In one year’s time, the City acquired the Sears property, applied for and received a \$5.5 million redevelopment grant from the State of Ohio, reached out to developers and retailers, and ultimately negotiated the sale of the property to Meijer for a substantial positive return on the City’s \$1.8 million investment.

“The City purchased the property a year ago because we felt that we needed to manage the redevelopment of this large parcel in the middle of our main commercial district,” Castelli says. “We also knew that the cost of tearing down the former Sears building was very expensive and could be prohibitive to a developer or retailer locating there.”

Castelli says he was confident once the City stabilized the property and secured the State grant, it would create tremendous redevelopment opportunities to attract sought-after retail partners like Meijer.

“This project anchors Southland as well as the newly developed Main Street on Smith Road, with an incredible retailer that’s going to bring other interested businesses and developers to the area,” Castelli says.

On November 26, 2024, Middleburg Heights City Council unanimously approved the purchase agreement between Middleburg Heights and Meijer, Inc. Meijer is in the early stages of planning for this development and plans on submitting its development application for the site in the coming months.