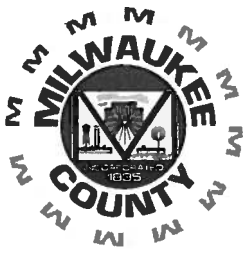


OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Milwaukee County

DONALD G. NATZKE DIRECTOR

Ms. Mary Mokwa
Southridge Mall
5300 S 76th St.
Greendale, WI 53129

November 28, 2011

Dear Ms. Mokwa,


On Monday, November 14, the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities learned of Simon Malls' move to eliminate Milwaukee County Transit System bus stops, and therefore buses, from the Southridge Mall property. By both fervent and unanimous action, the Commission expresses its strong opposition to this impediment to the independence of Mall customers and employees with disabilities. In the best interests of all concerned, we respectfully request that you reconsider your unfortunate position, which will significantly and adversely impact the ability of citizens with disabilities to access the Mall and, therefore, the commerce between those customers and your business owners.

Your action eliminates a long established accessible path of travel into the Mall for many people with disabilities. Individuals using wheelchairs and scooters will be required to move among vehicles with low profile mobility aids. Those who are blind, or severely visually impaired, will need to negotiate traffic lanes with no easily discernable pathways. Customers with coronary- and pulmonary- related fatigue difficulties will have to travel extended distances on your property in often inclement weather, and face a significant risk to their health.

Furthermore, historically and to the present, Southridge Mall has benefited from public funding. We therefore take the position that Simon Malls is obligated to assure reasonable access to its Mall by the community, which includes individuals with disabilities.

Though we presume it was not your intent to harm the interests of people with disabilities, eliminating bus stops and prohibiting bus travel on Mall property would surely do so. We are confident that whatever has motivated this move by Simon Malls can be addressed in other ways which do not raise additional barriers to the independence of Mall customers and employees with disabilities. We urge your prompt reconsideration of this matter and a reversal of your decision.

Respectfully,

Deb Falk - Palec 

Deb Falk-Palec, Chair
Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Donald Natzke
Donald Natzke, Director
Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities

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Cc: Frank Busalacchi, Director, Department of Transportation and Public Works
Brian Dranzik, Director of Operations, Department of Transportation and Public Works