



### **Municipal Center**

4900 Village Commons  
Matteson, IL 60443  
708-283-4900  
Fax: 708-748-5196  
www.villageofmatteson.org

### **Administration**

*Village Administrator*  
708-283-4911  
*Office of the Village Clerk*  
708-283-4950  
*Community Affairs*  
708-283-4777  
*Economic Development*  
708-283-4779  
*Water Billing Services*  
708-283-4790

### **Community Development**

*Building Services*  
708-481-8313  
Fax: 708-748-2326  
*Planning & Zoning*  
708-283-4940

### **Finance**

708-283-4900

### **Fire Department**

3445 211th Street  
708-748-5129  
Fax: 708-283-6606  
*Fire Prevention Bureau*  
708-748-5129  
Fax: 708-283-6606

### **Human Resources**

708-283-4949

### **Police Department**

20500 S. Cicero Ave.  
*Administrative Division*  
708-748-4085  
Fax: 708-748-7364  
*Non-Emergency*  
708-748-1564

### **Public Works**

21146 Tower Ave.  
708-748-1411  
Fax: 708-503-3120  
*Parks Maintenance*  
708-720-1876

### **Recreational Services**

20642 Matteson Ave.  
708-441-4500  
Fax: 708-441-4259

August 6, 2013

Re: Lawsuit to Close Lincoln Mall

Lincoln Mall Tenants:

For decades, Lincoln Mall served an important role in our community. It has provided retail opportunities, jobs and has served as an economic development anchor that has attracted other businesses along the U.S. 30 corridor.

But in recent years, it has become obvious to tenants and customers alike that the mall has deteriorated in condition and quality. The mall today does not reflect the vibrant center it once was. In its place is an ignored facility that has fallen into a dangerous and potentially life-threatening condition.

When Michael Kohan purchased the mall last year, he committed to the Village that he would make the repairs necessary to ensure a safe environment for visitors. Instead, he has let the mall fall into even worse condition.

Despite our many attempts to discuss these problems and work with Mr. Kohan on a rehabilitation plan, he has ignored and refused to address numerous safety issues. In fact, an inspection last month showed that in addition to the dozens of health, safety and code violations previously discovered at the mall, even more violations have been identified since Mr. Kohan's tenure.

That is why, tomorrow, we will file a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court, asking a judge to approve the immediate closure of Lincoln Mall. As a result of findings by building and fire safety inspectors, we can no longer ensure the safety of anyone working or shopping there.

This is a difficult day for Matteson, for me personally, and for many of you. But I will not allow visitors to Lincoln Mall to be placed in harm's way because of an owner who has failed to act in the best interests of tenants and shoppers. It is my hope that as a result of this action, we will be able to develop a plan that will

lead us to a day when we are once again able to be proud of Lincoln Mall and the opportunities it has created for our community.

As part of this complaint, we have asked the judge to appoint an independent receiver who can develop a long-term plan to bring the mall back to a safe and secure operating condition. I want the mall to re-open as the thriving retail center we all remember it once was. But I cannot in good conscience allow Mr. Kohan to continue ignoring his responsibilities as a business owner. Though you, as tenants, dutifully pay him rent, he is not investing those funds into making the mall safe or secure for those inside.

Please know that we did not take this action lightly. The health and safety of our residents and visitors is our primary concern. After months of broken promises and lack of action by Mr. Kohan, he has left us no choice but to ask for the mall's temporary closure.

As this process moves forward, we will keep you apprised of all developments on our village website, [www.villageofmatteson.org](http://www.villageofmatteson.org). We will also help retailers identify alternative spaces in Matteson, where they can operate until Mr. Kohan makes the repairs needed for the mall to re-open.

On behalf of the people of the Village of Matteson, the Board of Trustees and our staff; I want to thank you for your understanding and patience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "André B. Ashmore". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

André B. Ashmore  
Village President