



## NEWS RELEASE

### Toys R Us Closing Affects Local Jobs

*Re-Employment Services Offered; Prime Business Real Estate Available*

**FREDERICK, MD – March 15, 2018:** The announcement that Toys R Us has declared bankruptcy and will close all of its stores will result in the loss of more than 300 jobs locally, counting 35 at the company's retail store on West Patrick Street and 320 at a distribution center in Frederick County.

Toys R Us has been a cherished business in The City of Frederick for decades, said Richard Griffin, director of Economic Development, with the City of Frederick.

“Our first concern is for the employees and their families,” Griffin said. “With the Frederick County Workforce Services staff, we will do what we can to help get them new employment.” The county Workforce Services team has already reached out to provide transitional services to the workers.

“We work with city, county and state partners to ensure that the displaced workers receive employment and training assistance in order to connect to opportunities with other businesses in the Frederick area,” stated Michelle Day, director of Frederick County Workforce Services.

The retail store at 1308 W. Patrick St. occupies approximately 45,000 square feet.

“The City will work closely with the brokerage community to fill the property, when the space becomes available,” Griffin said. “As for the larger picture, once a retail toy giant, Toys R us is in a situation that many older, established retailers find themselves in, with today's requirement for a more nimble retail operation,” Griffin said.

Mayor Michael O'Connor said the City is poised to assist the unemployed and to look forward.

“Locally, the closures are regrettable for the short term, but long term, the prospects are good for other businesses, especially in the prime real estate along the revitalized Golden Mile corridor of West Patrick Street,” O’Connor said.

“The efforts of our Economic Development team, in concert with the Golden Mile Alliance, are well established, and in position to see a lot of positive change in that area,” O’Connor said.

The City and Frederick County have a strong economic base, with more than 8,300 businesses and 105,000 employees, including 3,400 businesses and 50,000 employees in the City of Frederick. Unemployment in Frederick County currently stands at 3.7 percent.

Employees affected by these closures who would like more information about how Frederick County Workforce Services can assist, may contact [www.frederickworks.com](http://www.frederickworks.com) or call 301-600-2255.

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