

## **SouthShore Mall Tenants Fight For Gregorian Group**

### **Local News**

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ABERDEEN, Wash. - Just about all of the remaining tenants of the SouthShore Mall spoke out yesterday to try and keep one tenant who's lease is up at the end of the month. One tenant said at the beginning of the regular meeting "I think we all agree that we wish there could be a solution for Gregory, and the Gregorian Group.

Mall Manager Jamie Walsh said the Gregorian Group was finishing a rent-free lease on 9,000 square feet of store space "I don't think that we want to have business relationships with people where there are no exchanges of money. I think that it's very important that we try to clean things up, and one of the things that we need to do is that we need to not have people in the mall that are not paying rent. After multiple tenants offered to pay whatever rent would keep the Gregorian Group in the mall, Walsh said she also had concerns about their insurance and that the non profit does not have its 501(c) (3) status yet.

Gregory Johnson started the Group in 2009, and over the past year has turned the empty retail space across from the former Radio Shack in the Southshore Mall into a haven for Grays Harbor youth. After declining a possible offer for office space in the Cafe Court, Johnson said he continues his search for a new home. Walsh told tenants that the mall had some big plans in the works including three new businesses expected to move in this month, as well as lawn care and new paint in the parking lot.