

The Columbus Dispatch

Airport shops to get makeover

\$2 million set aside for interiors, new Brighton Collectibles

By Marla Matzer Rose THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Port Columbus retail shops will receive a \$2 million upgrade and a new store will be added, after the airport extended its contract this week with Paradies Shops, which manages retail activity there.

Most of that \$2 million, \$1.5 million, will go to new lighting, carpeting and other upgrades at the Port Columbus shops over the next three years.

In addition, \$500,000 will be spent to transform the former Bath & Body Works space into a Brighton Collectibles, a purveyor of women's handbags and accessories.

Brighton will be in a corner location at the entrance to Concourse B by early next year.

Limited Brands' Bath & Body Works closed last month after more than a dozen years at the airport, partly because sales slumped when security rules severely limited the amount of liquid that can be carried aboard planes.

Brighton Collectibles' sales are projected at \$800,000 per year, with the airport collecting 8 percent of that amount in rent.

Revenue from concessions, retail and parking has become increasingly important to airports in recent years with the downturn in flight activity and airline consolidation.

That income helps make up for a downturn in rent and landing fees from airlines.

Paradies' contract at Port Columbus has been extended from 2019 to 2021.

Other retailers at the airport include Brooks Brothers, the Big Ten Conference Shop and the PGA Tour Shop.

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