**\*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\***

**Microsoft Opens New Jersey’s Third Full Line Retail Store at Westfield Garden State Plaza**

*Macklemore & Ryan Lewis Help Kick Off Opening Weekend*

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. EDT, Thursday, May 22

**WHERE:**  One Garden State Plaza, Paramus, NJ 07652

**WHAT:** **Microsoft retail store doors will open at** **Westfield Garden State Plaza** this Thursday, May 22 at 11 a.m., after a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Panos Panay, Corporate Vice President for Microsoft Surface. Panay will present more than $1 million in software grants to local community organizations Children’s Aid and Family Services, The Arc of Bergen, and Passaic Counties and Bergen Family Center.

**This marks Microsoft’s third full line retail store in New Jersey, and 93rd across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico.** As part of the grand opening activities, Microsoft is sponsoring a special performance by Grammy award-winning **Macklemore & Ryan Lewis** near Microsoft at Westfield Garden State Plaza later that day.

Customers should arrive early to the grand opening ceremonies on Thursday for a chance to win giveaways and receive free tickets to the special performance by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis later that day.

Microsoft continues to expand its existing retail footprint in the U.S. to deliver a premium retail experience that is entertaining and educational and gives customers choice, value and service with their technology purchases.

If you are interested in attending the grand opening, please plan to arrive around 10–10:15 a.m. as the ribbon cutting ceremony will begin around 10:30 a.m.

*\*\*Please note there will be no media access to the special performance by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis on Thursday.\*\**

B-roll of past store openings are available for download from Microsoft News Center: [http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/presskits/retailstores](http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/presskits/retailstores/).

**Media Highlights for Microsoft Retail Store Grand Opening**

**Wednesday, May 21**

**8–10 a.m. EDT – Preview Tours**. Special sneak peek inside the store the day before it opens to capture photos, b-roll and to interview local store managers.

**Thursday, May 22**

**10:30–11 a.m. EDT – Grand Opening Ceremony.**Join Microsoft’s Panos Panay for a ribbon-cutting ceremony where he will present more than $1 million in software grants.

**11 a.m. EDT – Doors open!** **Microsoft plans a full day of celebration.** Microsoft will host giveaways, provide free Macklemore & Ryan Lewis concert tickets and customers can take advantage of great deals on PCs, Windows Phones, Xbox releases and more.

**5 p.m. EDT — Gates open for special performance by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.** Customers who come to the Grand Opening Ceremonies early on Thursday morning have a chance to receive free tickets to the special performance later that day.

**For more information** about Microsoft retail stores or to make arrangements for an interview and tour, please contact Beth Heller: beth.heller@edelman.com, 212.704.8161

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