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Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority to Pursue Hotel, Selects Owners' Representative

Savannah, Georgia - In a unanimous decision reached during its regular board meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023, the Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority (SGCCA) voted to pursue a hotel development project that mirrors the successful model used by Georgia World Congress Center Authority in its development of Signia by Hilton Atlanta. The hotel will be exclusively owned by SGCCA.

Mark Smith, chairman of the Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority, emphasized the critical nature of this decision, stating, "It is critical to protect the investment of over half a billion in state and local funding by delivering a supporting hotel. Recent turmoil in the credit markets led us to the conclusion that we must build the new hotel ourselves."

SGCCA selected Atlanta-based Songy Highroads and Texas-based Matthews Southwest to serve as the owners' representative and developers of the hotel. Songy Highroads' extensive experience in the industry and proven track record in delivering exceptional projects make them the ideal partner for this venture. Based in Lewisville, Texas, Matthews is a full-service real estate development company with a strong reputation in the Southern markets.

In addition to the decision regarding the hotel development, SGCCA has also voted to pursue funding of \$15 million for the repair and improvement of the River Walk, further demonstrating the Authority's commitment to the community and the enhancement of local amenities.

"Embracing this hotel development, the Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority marks a new era in our commitment to bolstering economic growth, supporting local businesses, and promoting tourism," added Smith. "We remain dedicated to enhancing our facilities, ensuring Savannah's prominence as a top destination for conventions, conferences, and tourism, while fostering regional growth and advancement."