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COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT BAYFRONT HOTEL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Hotel to boost local economy by creating employment opportunities and attracting development to the former GAF property.

(Erie, Pa.) – The Erie County Convention Center Authority moves forward today with a hotel groundbreaking to continue investing in the development of Erie's prime Bayfront property.

The Courtyard by Marriott Bayfront Hotel is located to the west of the Bayfront Convention Center at 2 Sassafras Pier. It will be five floors with 192 rooms. There will be 14 suites, 64 king-bed rooms and 114 double suite rooms, some with a balcony facing Presque Isle Bay.

The total cost to develop the hotel is \$42.5 million. Rooms at the Courtyard by Marriott Bayfront Hotel will cost 20% to 30% less than the average room rate at the Bayfront Sheraton Hotel.

The hotel will create 41 full-time and 14 part-time positions, along with 44 permanent indirect jobs created by supplier industries and secondary industries. Additionally, there will be 178 construction jobs stemming from the project.

The hotel will have amenities including two bars, three meeting rooms, a fitness center and an indoor pool. There will also be the first of its kind outdoor infinity pool overlooking Presque Isle Bay.

As part of the hotel project, a \$7.6 million, 281 space parking garage will be built for hotel visitors and provide for future development at Bayfront Place. There will be two retail spaces included in the parking garage – one will be 3,800 square feet and the other 4,300 square feet.

Construction on the parking garage begins in the spring of 2015, but will be complete at the same time as the hotel in spring 2016.

Additionally, the Erie County Convention Center Authority is unveiling new branding today for the organization. The ECCCA will now be commonly known as “Erie Events” with the slogan “Get Up and Go!” Our new branding is more easily recognizable and understandable for residents and visitors.

“Branding is an important aspect of who we are and what we do,” said Elizabeth D’Aurora, Coordinator of Communications and Client Relations for Erie Events. “Our new slogan better fits our action-oriented mission to create a lively downtown atmosphere.”

Along with our new branding, Erie Events is launching a social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Search “Erie Events” on all three of those sites to find us.

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The mission of Erie Events is to provide world class convention facilities and entertainment venues presenting diverse performing arts and sporting events for county and regional residents and their visiting families and friends, meeting and convention visitors, travelers and vacationers.

