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**SBE AND STOCKBRIDGE REAL ESTATE FUNDS ENTER INTO  
AGREEMENT WITH GORDON GAMING CORPORATION TO  
ACQUIRE LAS VEGAS' LEGENDARY SAHARA HOTEL & CASINO**

(Las Vegas – March 2, 2007) – SBE, its partner Stockbridge Real Estate Funds (“Stockbridge”) and Gordon Gaming Corporation (“Gordon Gaming”) announced today that SBE and Stockbridge have reached an agreement with Gordon Gaming to acquire Las Vegas’ renowned Sahara Hotel & Casino. SBE and Stockbridge intend to utilize their extensive redevelopment experience to reinvigorate the property and the Las Vegas Strip. The announcement was made by SBE’s CEO, Sam Nazarian; Terry Fancher, the Managing Partner of Stockbridge, and Gordon Gaming’s CEO, Al Hummel.

Upon the closing of the transaction, SBE will manage the hotel and its associated food and beverage operations via its operating divisions: hotels, restaurants and nightlife. Sahara’s casino will be operated by Larry Woolf’s Navigante Group under a lease arrangement.

“The Sahara is one of the last remaining original properties on the Las Vegas strip, and we are thrilled with the possibilities that it presents,” commented Mr. Nazarian. “Our plan is to reposition this legendary property for a new generation of travelers, while preserving its existing scale. We look forward to making the Sahara the most important property on the North end of the Strip. We are equally excited to be partnered with Terry Fancher and the Stockbridge team to make this vision a reality.”

“We are very pleased to turn over the Sahara to this fresh and exciting partnership. We trust that SBE and Stockbridge will carry on the legacy of the Bennett family in creating a premier entertainment destination for the

21<sup>st</sup> century,” noted Mr. Hummel. “We are especially thankful to our friends at Northern Trust for overseeing this process on behalf of the Bennett family.”

Added Mr. Fancher, “We are very pleased to be entering the Las Vegas hotel market in partnership with SBE. As a private equity investor, we look for a combination of factors in deciding to make a particular investment. The Sahara represents many of these characteristics. It is a property with a proud tradition of appealing to visitors from throughout the world. It is also a property that will clearly benefit from a substantial capital investment. Our operating partner, SBE, is well-suited to execute this investment given their enormous creativity and other strengths. The strong fundamentals of the Las Vegas hotel market also should help assure the success of this investment.”

Originally built in 1952, the Moroccan-themed Sahara is the Northern-most resort on the famed Las Vegas Strip. The last remaining “Rat Pack” resort, the Sahara was the setting for the original “Ocean’s Eleven” film, and has played host to nearly every big-name performer and a veritable “who’s who” of Las Vegas royalty since its opening.

The parties would like to acknowledge and thank their advisors who assisted with the transaction. For Gordon Gaming, SG Americas Securities, LLC acted as Exclusive Financial Advisor and Joint Transaction Advisor, along with CB Richard Ellis’ Global Gaming Group (Las Vegas). Gordon Gaming was represented primarily by Latham & Watkins, LLP (Orange County and San Diego) and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, P.C. (Las Vegas). SBE and Stockbridge were represented primarily by Davis Polk & Wardwell (New York and Menlo Park), Pillsbury Winthrop, LLP (Los Angeles), Lionel, Sawyer & Collins (Las Vegas), Lewis and Roca (Las Vegas), and Kamer Zucker Abbott (Las Vegas).



#### **ABOUT SBE**

Founded in 2002, the Los Angeles-based SBE brings exquisite balance to the worlds of hospitality, real estate development and independent film production. As a privately held company founded and helmed by CEO Sam Nazarian, SBE acquires, develops and manages exceptional projects through its divisions – Hotels, Restaurant and Nightlife, Real Estate, Bolthouse Productions and Element Films. With a mission to redefine standards of excellence and innovation, SBE has harnessed the creativity and innovation of the best minds in the business, including design visionary Philippe Starck, with whom the company has an exclusive agreement for the creation of hotels, restaurants and lounges in the U.S., Canada, Caribbean and Mexico. SBE’s Restaurant and Nightlife division constantly stays ahead of the curve, creating and expanding trend-setting restaurant and nightlife concepts, which currently include Katsuya, Foxtail, The Abbey, Hyde Lounge, S Bar and Area. As the cornerstone of its synergistic approach, SBE has also completely rethought and re-imagined the luxury hotel experience. SBE will debut its first luxury hotel brand, SLS Hotels, with the Fall 2008 opening of SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills featuring a Starck design and an innovative culinary program by chef José Andrés. Also in the SBE Hotel collection are Miami’s Ritz Plaza hotel, to debut in late 2009, and Las Vegas’ Sahara Hotel & Casino, which will undergo a complete redevelopment for completion in early 2011.

**ABOUT STOCKBRIDGE REAL ESTATE FUNDS**

Stockbridge Real Estate Funds are a series of real estate investment funds capitalized by major public and private pension funds and high net-worth individuals. It is managed by Stockbridge Real Estate Partners, LLC. Since 1994, the principals of Stockbridge have invested approximately \$7.6 billion in major institutional real estate holdings on behalf of Stockbridge Real Estate Funds and Paine Webber Group, Inc.

**ABOUT THE SAHARA / GORDON GAMING CORPORATION**

The Sahara Hotel and Casino, home of the NASCAR Entertainment Center, opened its doors in the early 1950's. This legendary institution has hosted virtually every major star as a performer or guest, including, Johnny Carson, Tina Turner, Buddy Hackett, The Beatles, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. The Sahara Hotel and Casino is the best stop on the Las Vegas monorail line. The entertainment at this resort cannot be beat. It is home to the "The Scintas" one of the best shows in Las Vegas. Trent Carlini also stars in "The Musical History of the King" along with musical concerts by THE PLATTERS, Cornell Gunter's COASTERS and Beary Hobb's DRIFTERS." The Sahara's world famous Casbar Theatre Lounge has been awarded "Best of Las Vegas" honors by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. For room reservations, call the Sahara Hotel and Casino at (888) 696-2121.

**ABOUT NORTHERN TRUST**

Northern Trust Corporation (Nasdaq: [NTRS](#)) is a leading provider of investment management, asset and fund administration, fiduciary and banking solutions for corporations, institutions and affluent individuals worldwide. Northern Trust, a multibank holding company based in Chicago, has a growing network of 84 offices in 18 U.S. states and has international offices in 13 locations in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. As of December 31, 2006, Northern Trust had assets under custody of \$3.5 trillion, and assets under investment management of \$697 billion. Northern Trust, founded in 1889, has earned distinction as an industry leader in combining high-touch service and expertise with innovative products and technology. For more information, visit <http://www.northerntrust.com>.