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Media Release

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City of Joliet Congratulates Harrah's on Announcement of the First Paula Deen Restaurant in the Midwest

Joliet, IL – The City of Joliet: Mayor Tom Giarrante and the Joliet City Council congratulate the Harrah's Joliet on their recent announcement. A Paula Deen Restaurant and Retail Store will open at Harrah's Joliet Casino in Spring 2012.

An official media event is scheduled for Tuesday December 6, 2011 at 9:30am to formally celebrate the news. Paula Deen will "Skype" attend via satellite. Harrah's Joliet Casino is investing \$2.4 Million to develop and introduce the Paula Deen Brand into the Midwest. The restaurant will be a buffet and feature colonial southern architecture inspired by Deen's hometown of Savannah, Georgia. The location will also feature a retail space offering cookbooks, aprons and cookware.

"The overall economic impact will be great" said Joliet City Manager, Tom Thanas. "Not only the actual improvement to the facility, but hopefully in the potential increase of foot traffic it will help generate for Downtown Joliet."

Mayor Thomas Giarrante is also pleased with the improvement. "This is exactly the type of project that Downtown Joliet needs right now", said Mayor Giarrante. "When I formed the Committee to Attract and Retain Business, we advocated the development and redevelopment of new and existing locations, Harrah's has done exactly that."

For more information, visit www.harrahsjoliet.com or call Marjorie Bell at 815-740-7828.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

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