

Detroit Native to Oversee MotorCity Casino Hotel

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A native Detroiter is returning to the city to oversee the day-to-day operations of MotorCity Casino Hotel, which will open November 1.

Randall (Randy) K. Villareal has been named vice president of hotel operations effective immediately. He brings nearly 30 years of independent and corporate hotel experience and has held assignments across the United States, in the Caribbean and in Eastern Europe. In addition, Villareal has managed two casino-hotel properties and has launched several hotels during his accomplished career.

"MotorCity welcomes Randy back home," said Rhonda Cohen, chief operating officer of MotorCity Casino Hotel. "We are excited to add his breadth of hospitality experience -- from boutique and private resorts to massive corporate properties -- to the team and adopt his quality guest service standards. We're extremely fortunate that Randy has specific hospitality experience in Detroit and understands the Midwest market."

Villareal joins MotorCity Casino Hotel from the Remington Hotel Corporation in Dallas, where he served as divisional vice president since 2006 and was responsible for the oversight of 11 U.S. hotels including Crowne Plaza, Residence Inn, Springhill Suites, Marriott, Radisson and Sheraton properties.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to return to Detroit and apply my experience to a new casino-hotel that fully embodies the identity, the energy and the vitality of Detroit," said Villareal. "I am committed to exceeding our guests' expectations through exceptional customer service, while further positioning Detroit as a destination city bursting with the best entertainment, sports and dining offerings in the region."

Villareal was born and raised in the city of Detroit and is an economics graduate of the James Madison College at Michigan State University. While a student, he became a food and beverage manager and was quickly appointed to director -- the youngest in the chain -- at the Holiday Inn Flint (Flint, Mich.). After graduating, he became the director of food and beverage at the Mobil Four Star Westin Michigan Inn Southfield (Southfield, Mich.). That position ignited a six-year relationship within the Westin Hotel Corporation, in which he held several food and beverage leadership positions at prestigious hotels such as the Westin St. Francis Hotel San Francisco, and back in Detroit at the Westin Hotel Renaissance Center.

In 1984 Villareal moved to Philadelphia as director of food and beverage for the Adams Mark Hotel Corporation. A year later he accepted a position with Madesco Investment Corporation in St. Louis as corporate food and beverage director for several hotels and two free-standing restaurants.

Three years later he accepted a food and beverage director position at the independently owned, 700-room Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, a Mobil Four Star and AAA Four Diamond historic landmark hotel in the city's downtown, and was quickly promoted to managing director. During his 11-year tenure at the Biltmore, Villareal was involved in several civic and industry associations including serving as chairman of the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau and Downtown (L.A.) Marketing Council. He is credited for creating the Downtown Safe and Clean program immediately following the 1992 Los Angeles riots, and was named one of the top 10 business leaders in Downtown Los Angeles.

In 1998 Villareal joined the Tishman Hotel Corporation as senior vice president of operations where he oversaw the daily operations for 14 hotels in California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. It was in this position that he developed, implemented and managed casino operations in Puerto Rico and coordinated all aspects in the opening of the Courtyard by Marriott at Warsaw International Airport.

About MotorCity Casino Hotel

MotorCity Casino Hotel, owned by Marion Ilitch, is the only locally owned and operated casino in Detroit.

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