

Morgans Hotel Group Receives Gaming License for Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas
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Morgans Hotel Group Co. (NASDAQ: MHGC) today announced that the Company has received approval from the Nevada Gaming Commission to operate the casino at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. MHG and its equity partner, DLJ Merchant Banking Partners, expect to begin operating the casino in February 2008.

'We are pleased to receive approval from the Nevada Gaming Commission,' said Fred Kleisner, President and Chief Executive Officer of MHG. 'By operating the casino ourselves, we can provide a more integrated environment for our hotel and casino guests which we believe will help increase profitability at the casino. The Hard Rock is one of the premier gaming and entertainment resorts in Las Vegas, and with the expansion project currently underway, we expect to transform this iconic property into an even more successful operation in the vibrant Las Vegas market.'

Hard Rock is currently undergoing an expansion project, which is expected to add approximately 950 guest rooms, including an all-suite tower with upgraded amenities, approximately 60,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, and approximately 35,000 square feet of casino space. The project is expected to be fully completed by mid-2009.

Hard Rock has paid Golden Gaming approximately \$3.3 million over the last twelve months to operate the casino.

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