



Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District Elects One New Board Member and New Vice Chairman

James Song retires from board after 8 years

Duluth, GA - April 17, 2018 – Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (GPCID), a self-taxing district that uses additional commercial property taxes to accelerate infrastructure improvements, security enhancements and economic development in the Gwinnett Place area, elected one new board member and a new vice chairman during its annual Caucus of Electors on April 12.

Brett DeLoach, general manager for Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta and Sonesta ES Suites Gwinnett Place, was voted on the board and will serve a three-year term. He joins six other board members working to enhance the vitality of Gwinnett Place through improvement projects and by engaging more property owners to participate in the overall redevelopment efforts of the greater Gwinnett Place district. The board's new vice chairman is Trey Ragsdale, manager of government and community relations for Kaiser Permanente in Georgia. Ragsdale replaces James Song as vice chairman who completed his current board term. Song is president of [Camera Repair Japan Co.](#), a digital and electronic equipment service provider, owns [Gaja Korean Bar](#) in East Atlanta and is a realtor providing commercial real estate services.

"We are honored to have Brett as a new board member," said Joe Allen, executive director of the Gwinnett Place CID. "He has an enormous depth of experience in the hospitality industry, and we plan to leverage that knowledge as a resource to attract more businesses and jobs to the area." We are also saddened to see James retire from the board and thank him for over eight years of service. Trey will do an excellent job as the new vice chairman and will help lead our future planning efforts to promote redevelopment opportunities in the area."

Additional information follows:



Brett DeLoach is the general manager for Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta and Sonesta ES Suites Gwinnett Place. He handles all hotel operations, financial management, revenue generation and overall team structure for both properties.

DeLoach is no stranger to the hotel industry and brings more than 20 years of industry experience to Sonesta in Gwinnett Place. His management career started at Embassy Suites Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, where he was the assistant manager and responsible for

improving quality assurance, increasing loss prevention and overseeing operations for 277 suites. From there, DeLoach became the general manager for Hotel Indigo in Jacksonville and then moved to Atlanta to become the general manager for DoubleTree by Hilton. There, his role focused on providing day-to-day leadership and operational management while spearheading the hiring and supervising of his executive team.



Trey Ragsdale manages government and community relations for Kaiser Permanente in Georgia. In this role, Ragsdale is responsible for securing government and community support for Kaiser Permanente's healthcare initiatives throughout Georgia.

Trey is extremely involved in the community serving on numerous corporate, civic and nonprofit boards, both locally and internationally, including the Atlanta Regional Commission Workforce Development Board, Gwinnett Chamber Board and Partnership Gwinnett.

He was also named one of Georgia Trend Magazine's Top 40 Rising Business Leaders Under the Age of 40 in Georgia and the Atlanta Business Chronicle selected him as one of the top 50 rising Business Leaders under the Age of 40 in the metropolitan Atlanta region.

Leo Wiener, president of Ackerman Retail, was re-elected as board chairman. Mark Williams, owner of Printing Trade Company, was re-elected to his board post for another three-year term and re-elected secretary/treasurer of the CID.

The CID also announced the launch of a redesigned website. The new site, which is easier to navigate and mobile-friendly, has the most current content on [active](#), and [completed](#) projects, [blog posts](#), photos of the area and information on [available space](#), [redevelopment opportunities](#) and [incentives](#) in Gwinnett Place. Click [here](#) to visit the newly designed site by [Design-First](#) and [communications 21](#).

About Gwinnett Place CID

The Gwinnett Place Community Improve District was founded in 2005 and its mission is to the vitality of Gwinnett's central business district by strengthening the area's role as the center of economic and employment activity. With its proximity to the world-class Arena at Gwinnett Center venue and the Interstate 85 and Georgia Highway 316 corridors, Gwinnett Place serves as the gateway to the Atlanta region and all of Northeast Georgia.

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