



NEWS RELEASE

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City of Texarkana, Texas and D Hospitality, LLC Announce Award of Design/Build Firm for Texarkana Convention Center and Hilton Garden Inn

For immediate release:

Texarkana will soon realize its dream of a convention center and luxury hotel. Excitement continues to build as another crucial milestone is reached with the selection of the Design/Build firm for the Texarkana Convention Center and adjacent Hilton Garden Inn. In a joint statement, Texarkana, Texas CEO/City Manager Dr. Larry Sullivan and local Texarkana investors D Hospitality, LLC Principal Jack Daugherty announced Friday that Weis Builders, LLC of Dallas, Texas has been chosen as the Design/Build Team Leader for the joint project. The City of Texarkana, Texas will own the convention center and D Hospitality will own the hotel and manage both the hotel and convention center.

“Entering the Design/Build phase of this project is the culmination of a long-term vision of the Council and the Texarkana community coupled with a brilliant financing mechanism through hotel occupancy tax dollars,” commented Mayor Steve Mayo. “Developing the Texarkana Convention Center, paired with the luxury Hilton Garden Inn, with NO financial burden to our citizens is an accomplishment in which we can all take great pride.”

“It was a quite competitive SOQ (Statement of Qualifications) process with fourteen firms from across the country vying for this project,” Sullivan explained. “Our goal, in close collaboration with D Hospitality, was to select the firm that will deliver a premier quality product in the most

cost-effective manner. We are confident that we have found and engaged that firm in Weis Builders.”

Jack Daugherty echoed Sullivan’s vote of confidence in Weis. “We were quite impressed by the caliber of the firms that participated in the selection process – we had a great field from which to select. Weis is an award-winning firm (“Hilton’s Texas Hotels – Best Hotel Award” and “Hilton’s Deal of the Year Award) that brings to the table expertise and commitment to quality at all levels of staff.”

“We understand that the City of Texarkana and D Hospitality desire to hire a highly qualified and financially capable team that can demonstrate a successful and proven track record,” acknowledged Karl Meeks, Vice President of Weis Builders, Inc. “Our Design/Build team has experience with (23) Hilton Garden Inn projects, including convention centers, and have achieved “Hilton Preferred” status. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with D Hospitality on another outstanding project and look forward to collaboration with the leadership and staff of the City of Texarkana.”

The other major component of the Design/Build Team is the architectural firm. Weis has partnered with G2 Architecture/Griggs Group, Inc. of Hurst, Texas to design this project. “The creative process is always energizing as we strive to tailor each development to the particular community so it is unique yet functional,” advised Glenn Griggs, AIA, Lead Architect for the project. “It is our hope that the people of the Texarkana area and their guests at the convention center and Hilton Garden Inn will consider this complex one of Texarkana’s crown jewels.”

“G2 Architecture is also a ‘Hilton Preferred’ firm that has experience in designing convention center and hotel projects,” Meeks added. “Both of our firms have worked with public/private partnerships such as this collaboration between the City and D Hospitality.”

The partnership with the City of Texarkana, D Hospitality, Weis Builders, and G2 Architecture will have three primary phases:

- Phase 1: Programming** (well underway and nearing completion)
Develop a comprehensive understanding of the project
- Phase 2: Pre-Construction and Approval**
Thoroughly define the project/secure final approvals
- Phase 3: Construction**
Complete the project on schedule and within budget

Weis presented detailed timelines for the design and construction process during the initial planning meeting which included senior City staff, the Principals of D Hospitality, and the key members of the Design/Build Team from both Weis Builders and G2 Architecture. The Programming Phase of the design process is expected to last three weeks and be completed by August 26, 2010. During the Pre-Construction and Approval Phase, design plans including schematics, floor plans, elevations, etc. will be submitted for final approval by the City and D Hospitality by September 23, 2010. Provided all goes according to the proposed schedule, groundbreaking is expected in early 2011 with a Spring, 2012 Grand Opening anticipated.

“I can’t wait to be there as we cut the ribbon to celebrate the Grand Opening of our Texarkana Convention Center and the Hilton Garden Inn,” Ward 1 Councilmember Derrick McGary shared.

“The positive impact this venture will have on the Texarkana economy now and well into the future cannot be overstated.”

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