



555 East Canal Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robert C. Reed, Vice President
SMI Hotel Group
robert.reed@smi-hotelgroup.com
804-477-4300

SMI Hotel Group Announces the Reopening of The Commonwealth

Richmond, VA—December 8, 2017— **SMI Hotel Group**, a Richmond-based hotel management company, today announced the reopening of The Commonwealth (formerly Commonwealth Park Suites Hotel), located at 901 Bank Street in downtown Richmond. The hotel has undergone an 18-month, complete reimagining and renovation of its 59 guest suites and 3,000 square feet of meeting space. Rueger's, the hotel's 42 seat restaurant and bar, pays homage to the saloon that opened on the site of the hotel in 1846. The renovation included restoration of the historic 1912 façade, new elevators, new entrance canopies and improved accessibility.

"We are quite proud to reintroduce The Commonwealth to the Richmond community, as we acknowledge the property's history while celebrating the culture of today's RVA," said Robert Reed, Vice President—SMI Hotel Group. Furnishings throughout were primarily sourced in Virginia and North Carolina, and the property features original artwork commissioned to local Richmond artists. Every guest floor has an original mural painted by some of the area's most accomplished talent, including Mickael Broth, Nico Cathcart, Caesar, Augustus Fitch, Hamilton Glass, Ian Hess, Chris Milk Hulburt, Matt Lively, Earl Mack, and Andre Shank. And as a tribute to Richmond's place as the 3rd most tattooed city in America, every guest suite door features a tattoo, hand-painted by Charles Berger of Two Pillars Tattoo and Augustus Fitch.

The property features four types of suites: Cozy Studios—a one-room studio suite; Comfy Suites—a one room suite with separate living and bedroom area; Roomy Suites—a spacious two room suite with separate living room and bedroom; and Homey Suites—a Roomy Suite with a fully equipped kitchenette. All suites feature free wired and wireless internet, refrigerator/freezers, microwaves, 50" flat screen televisions with HD programming, Simmons Beautyrest bedding, clock radios with Bluetooth music streaming, Keurig coffeemakers with Richmond's own Black Hand Coffee Company products, and Virginia Artesian bottled water.

Baskervill was the architecture and design firm for the project, and M.L. Bell was general contractor for the public space.

The Commonwealth now enjoys an affiliation with the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Connect Collection, a group of smart, well-appointed, eclectic, and welcoming hotels. These properties seamlessly combine value with comfort and convenience to relax one's busy, on-the-road life. Inspired by local culture, they are the ideal portfolio of international properties for connecting one with their perfect preferred choice. Guests can earn points with iPrefer Hotel Rewards, the world's first global points-based loyalty program for independent hotels.

The Commonwealth is located at 9th and Bank Streets in downtown Richmond, directly across from the Virginia State Capitol. Its prime location is perfect for guests visiting state government offices, Richmond's financial district, or the city's historic attractions. Originally built on the site in 1846,



555 East Canal Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Rueger's Saloon was burnt down in 1865 at the end of the Civil War. A new saloon was built in 1867, followed by the original Hotel Rueger in 1901. In 1912 construction of the current hotel commenced, with the Hotel Rueger opening on November 5, 1913. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Richmond's Main Street Banking Historic District. With 59 guest suites, 3,000 square feet of meeting space and a lobby level restaurant, the hotel offers everything that the business or leisure traveler expects, while remaining intimate enough to give every guest the individualized attention they deserve.

About SMI Hotel Group

Founded in 1997, Richmond, VA based SMI Hotel Group is an owner and operator of award-winning upscale, full-service hotels in Virginia and Texas. Privately owned, the company strives to deliver memorable hospitality experiences that exceed the expectations of every guest that stays, meets or dines in their properties.

About Preferred Hotels & Resorts

Preferred Hotels & Resorts is the world's largest independent hotel brand, representing more than 650 distinctive hotels, resorts, residences, and unique hotel groups across 85 countries. Through its five global collections, Preferred Hotels & Resorts connects discerning travelers to the singular luxury hospitality experience that meets their life and style preferences for each occasion. Every property within the portfolio maintains the high quality standards and unparalleled service levels required by the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Integrated Quality Assurance Program. The iPrefer™ hotel rewards program, Preferred ResidencesSM, Preferred FamilySM, Preferred PrideSM, and Preferred Golf™ offer valuable benefits for travelers seeking a unique experience. For more information, visit PreferredHotels.com.

###