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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SMI Hotel Group Announces Plans for Renovation and Repositioning of the Commonwealth Park Suites Hotel**

**Richmond, VA**—June 9, 2016— **SMI Hotel Group**, a Richmond-based hotel management company, announced today that it has temporarily closed the Commonwealth Park Suites Hotel for an approximate 6 month renovation and repositioning. The top to bottom renovation, scheduled for completion in December 2016, will encompass all 59 guest suites, the lobby, meeting space, restaurant and fitness center. The guest elevators will be fully modernized, and the hotel exterior will receive a facelift, with a new entrance canopy and improved accessibility.

“The hotel’s renovation will preserve and highlight many of the historic aspects of the over 100 year old building, while giving a nod to the artsy, eclectic community that is the RVA of the 21<sup>st</sup> century”, said Robert Reed, Vice President—SMI Hotel Group. “We are featuring the craftsmanship of local makers for much of the furnishings, artwork and accessories, and intend to offer locally sourced products to our guests upon reopening. Technology will also be a hallmark of the new Commonwealth; while we will still offer the personalized service for which the hotel is known, guests will have the option to check in and open their guest room door with an app on their mobile phone, and text their requests to our Service Ambassadors.”

Baskervill is the design firm tasked with the reimagining of the boutique property for this multi-million dollar renovation. “This building has a rich, diverse history—and with its proximity to the Virginia State Capitol, we have several intriguing references to draw inspiration from, including Neoclassical and Federal designs for furniture and architectural details,” said Anna Kreyling, one of Baskervill’s award-winning hospitality designers on the project. “Richmond also has a tremendous local art community, some of whom we’ve engaged as an integral part of the design process.” added Kreyling.

The Commonwealth Park Suites Hotel is located at 9<sup>th</sup> 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, Rueger’s Hotel and Restaurant was burnt down during the Civil War. In 1912 construction of the current structure commenced, with the Hotel Rueger opening in 1914. 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, 1,880 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.

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