

NEWS

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RELEASE DATE: **IMMEDIATE**

PALMERHOUSE
A HILTON HOTEL

17 E MONROE STREET, CHICAGO IL 60603

THOR EQUITIES TAPS DEAN LANE AS NEW GENERAL MANAGER OF CHICAGO'S HISTORIC PALMER HOUSE HILTON HOTEL

(Chicago, IL) - Dean E. Lane, a 23-year veteran of the hotel industry has been appointed to the position of General Manager of Chicago's historic 138 year old Palmer House Hilton, the longest continuously operating hotel in North America. The announcement was made by Tom Loughlin, Area Vice President Hilton Hotels Corporation.

Lane's most recent position was as Hotel Manager of the Palmer House where he not only oversaw hotel operations, but figured prominently in the hotel's recently completed comprehensive \$170 million restoration and renovation program. The exhaustive and comprehensive initiative begun in 2006, is considered one of the largest projects of its kind in North America. The restoration maintains the historic hotel's landmark grandeur, while repurposing underutilized spaces into a modern luxury travel destination.

Lane began his hotel career in 1986, at the MGM Grand Hotel (now the Reno Hilton Resort) where he quickly ascended the management ladder from the Front Office to the Executive Office. Lane, before coming to Chicago, held the position of Resident Manager at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort overseeing all operational aspects of this full service resort. It was here that Lane distinguished himself, and began developing a reputation for his grasp of operations profitability and revenue maximization.

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"Since the late 19th century, the Palmer House has always taken great pride in the calibre of its General Managers. The Palmer House is no ordinary hotel; Dean is no ordinary General Manager," said Tom Loughlin. "With Dean at the helm of the "new" Palmer House, we are confident his leadership will make its mark as the hotel moves into the 21st century. He is a decided asset to our organization," Loughlin said.

Joe Sitt, CEO, Thor Equities, LLC, owners of the landmark Chicago hotel added, "We share Hilton's enthusiasm and trust in Dean's leadership. He clearly is the right person to reposition the Palmer House into its rightful place as one of the world's most significant hotel properties."

Born in Reno, Nevada, Lane is a graduate of the University of Nevada. His professional affiliations include memberships in Toastmasters International. He is certified in a number of professional training programs including Achieve Global certified instructor. He is the recipient of Chicago's Harold Washington College's Hospitality Bridge Award, and was a driving force in creating Chicago City College's Hospitality program.

Dean and his wife Heather are the parents of their son Samuel and make their home in Chicago's Southwest suburbs.

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**Dean E. Lane, General Manager
The Palmer House Hilton**