

For immediate release
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**Gulfport announces agreement of new partnership for casino operator in
Small Craft Harbor**

The City of Gulfport announces a partnership with Mississippi Coast Entertainment, LP for the development of a resort casino project in the small craft harbor. The project represents a \$140 million investment, which will include a casino, hotel, parking garage, performance theater, and commitment for a feature amenity.

Robert Lubin, of Mississippi Coast Entertainment said, "I want to thank the City of Gulfport for selecting our team for this exciting new gaming project. It is an honor, privilege and opportunity to create a special venue. We look forward to offering a first rate and fun gaming facility, a beautiful 4-star hotel and being part of something special as Gulfport continues her rise as a City of greater prominence in growth and development."

Mayor Billy Hewes, said, "After many years of working to make this site viable, we now have an agreement with adjoining land owners and a partner who has a strong track record of successful developments in the private sector. In concert with the Gulfport Redevelopment Commission, we have been working toward the goal of creating a development that will be an enhancement to an already great waterfront, providing added attractions to our growing tourism market. This milestone gets us much closer to that reality."

Council President Rusty Walker said, "In adding another upper-tier product to our existing mix, this announcement represents economic enhancement to Gulfport and the entire Gulf Coast region. We're optimistic that the proposed development's quality will work well with our existing upper-tier operation, resulting in growth in our overall market."

GRC Chairperson, Carole Lynn Meadows, said, "The Gulfport Redevelopment Commission is thrilled to welcome yet another development to the vibrant activity throughout Gulfport. Each new project adds to the City's vision of being a great place not only to live, work, and play but also to visit if you aren't already fortunate enough to live here!"

Robert Lubin is a principal in the development and operation of numerous projects in Mississippi, including Magnolia Bluffs Casino and the Eola Hotel in Natchez, the Cotton Mill in Starkville, and many projects throughout the country.

For further information, contact Carole Lynn Meadows at (228) 547-5635.