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**LaKota Oaks Plants Tree in Honor of Former Mayor Frank Zullo
at Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**



PHOTOS L to R: Sam D. Haigh, Andy Dolce, Mayor Harry Rilling, Anne Bavier, Bernice Zullo, Lucia Rilling, Hafeez Choudhary Aallya Choudhary, Sam L. Haigh, Danny Dolce, Brian Griffin, David Levinson, Mark Speranza, Asif Jamal

July 12, 2018 – Norwalk, CT - - LaKota Oaks hosted its inaugural ribbon-cutting and tree planting ceremony in honor of former Mayor, Frank Zullo, yesterday. More than 50 people attended from Norwalk and the surrounding communities to celebrate the new ownership and management of LaKota Oaks, Southern Connecticut’s Event and Conference Center, as well as the long and successful life of Mayor Zullo, who passed away earlier this year.

The attendees gathered along the sweeping front lawn of the property to hear warm dedications made by LaKota Hotels & Resorts Director, Andy Dolce, Norwalk Mayor, Harry Rilling, LaKota Oaks owner, Hafeez Choudhary and Frank Zullo’s wife, Bernice Zullo. The community of people gathered around the tree to celebrate the life of Frank Zullo and the mission of LaKota Oaks to cultivate and nurture the strong roots and existing relationships of the Norwalk community. “This oak tree was planted to signify the strong influence Frank Zullo had on everyone he touched,” said Andy Dolce in his comments. “Frank Zullo was the best Mayor Norwalk ever had!” said Mayor Harry Rilling in his comments.

Sam Haigh, LaKota Hotels & Resorts President, presented a toast recognizing the residents and businesses in Norwalk and greater Fairfield County for their continued support in bringing their conferences, corporate retreats, weddings, parties and social events to the facility.

Attendees included Norwalk Mayor, Harry Rilling, Norwalk Chamber President, Brian Griffin, Norwalk Community College President, David Levinson, new owner of LaKota Oaks, Hafeez Choudhary, of Queens Plaza LLC, Silvermine Arts Center Gallery Director, Roger Mudre, several members of the West Norwalk Association, as well as the entire LaKota Oaks operations and management team.

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LaKota Oaks, Connecticut's event and conference center, is situated on sixty-six secluded acres of rolling hills, sweeping lawns, and scenic ponds in the heart of Fairfield County, offering 123 deluxe guestrooms, large social event spaces, state-of-the-art conference facilities, a 75-foot indoor lap pool, fitness center, walking, jogging and bike trails, indoor basketball and racquetball courts, outdoor tennis, volleyball, and bocce courts. The conference center features 22 dedicated conference rooms for collaborative training, strategic planning and team building, and a food service system specifically designed to cater to conference and social groups. It is a certified venue by the International Association of Conference Centers and was voted "Best Weddings" by The Knot. Just minutes from I-95, the Merritt Parkway, Metro North rail stations, several marinas and beaches and all Southern Connecticut attractions, LaKota Oaks is easily reached from anywhere in the entire Metro New York area. www.lakotaoaks.com

LaKota Hotels & Resorts is a specialized hospitality operating company, utilizing dynamic leadership techniques and a "whatever-it-takes" approach to service to transform its properties into thriving hospitality operations. Created by the leaders of two long-time competitors, the LaKota founders built an exceptionally strong team that specializes in operating hotels, resorts and conference centers to achieve extraordinary financial results. The National Conference Center in Leesburg, VA, is a recent LaKota success story, where LaKota stepped into this 917-room property that the lender had taken back, immediately put the business on a positive footing, dramatically increased revenue and cash flow, and tripled the value of the asset in less than four years. LaKota Hotels & Resorts' most recent addition is the 123-room Lakota Oaks Event and Conference Center (formerly Dolce Norwalk) in Fairfield County CT, assuming management in June 2018, supervising the design and implementation of a complete renovation of the guest rooms, function rooms and public spaces, while significantly ramping up revenue and profitability. For additional information, please visit: www.lakotahr.com