



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 18, 2021

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### **Rodney Ferguson Named as Executive Vice President of Gaming and Resort Operations**

**NORFOLK, VA** – The Pamunkey Indian Tribal Gaming Authority welcomes Rodney Ferguson as the Executive Vice President of Gaming and Resort Operations. He will serve in a senior leadership position for the Norfolk Resort & Casino as well as gaming and resort operations for the Authority generally. Mr. Ferguson was most recently the Chief Executive Officer/General Manager at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He brings 30+ years of commercial and Native gaming and resort experience to the Norfolk Resort & Casino, having begun his career working for some of the most prominent names in the industry in Atlantic City in the early 1980s. He will start his new role on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

“The Tribe and the Gaming Authority could not be more excited to welcome Rodney to our team,” said Tim Langston, Chairman of the Pamunkey Indian Tribal Gaming Authority. “He brings decades of experience to our Norfolk casino and understands the mission of our Tribe and our goal of bringing a world-class casino to the region and investing back into the community.”

“When we started our national search, we had no idea that the road for this important position would lead us right back to Hampton Roads,” said Robert Gray, Chief of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe. “He understands the business and he understands the community. We couldn’t have found a better combination of talent and integrity.”

“We welcome Rodney back to Hampton Roads and we are pleased to see that the Pamunkey Tribe is delivering on its promise of equity and inclusion in the top leadership of the Norfolk Resort and Casino,” said Kenneth Alexander, Mayor of Norfolk.

While at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, Ferguson oversaw the day-to-day management of the organization, successfully executed effective growth strategies, and developed a Tribal Career Development Program. He has an in-depth understanding of all aspects of gaming and resort operations, having served in the roles of Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer and then Chief Executive Officer at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino. Prior to his time in Wisconsin, Ferguson served in senior executive positions, including CEO, in several jurisdictions around the country.

“I am honored the Tribe has put their trust in me to bring their vision of a premier destination resort and casino to an area I know well,” said Mr. Ferguson. “It feels great to return home to Virginia and Hampton Roads.”

Ferguson received a Bachelor's of Science in Accounting from Virginia State University, graduating cum laude. He is a Certified Public Accountant and is a Member of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants. His interests include basketball, football, golf, boxing, camping, and fishing.

Expecting to break ground on this \$500 million project later this year, the Norfolk Resort & Casino will include a Four-Diamond full-service convention hotel, several onsite restaurants, a luxurious spa, an entertainment venue, and indoor and outdoor pools. The resort and casino will create thousands of construction and ongoing full-time jobs, attract millions of visitors each year and generate tens of millions of dollars in annual tax revenue to the City.

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*The Pamunkey Indian Tribe is one of 11 Virginia Indian tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the state's first federally recognized tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This federal recognition came in early 2016 and allows the tribe to pursue economic development opportunities that will ensure their long-term viability. Their 1,600 acres of Pamunkey land are tucked in along the north bank of the Pamunkey River in King William County, where they continue to be stewards of the environment and contributing members of the surrounding community. Claiming Pocahontas as an early ancestor, the tribe currently has approximately 60 citizens living on the reservations and another 350 living throughout the country.*