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MAYOR BOWSER, EVENTS DC AND MONUMENTAL SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WITH SMOOT/GILBANE SPORTS CELEBRATE THE TOPPING OUT FOR THE NEW ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS ARENA IN WASHINGTON, DC

Arena will act as a catalyst for economic development and prosperity in an underrecognized corner of the District

WASHINGTON, DC) – January 11, 2018 – Today, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Events DC, the District’s convention and sports authority and Monumental Sports & Entertainment with Smoot/Gilbane Sports and the Washington Area Design Group celebrated the topping out of the Entertainment and Sports Arena with city dignitaries and the Ward 8 community. This milestone signifies the completion of the steel structure for the 4,200-seat Arena in the historic Congress Heights neighborhood of Washington, DC.

“Today, we put the top on a one-of-a-kind facility that is already bringing jobs to Ward 8, and there is still so much more to come,” said Mayor Bowser. “This project is bigger than basketball – it is about building pathways to the middle class and expanding prosperity by bringing jobs, entertainment, affordable housing, and more to every corner of our city.”

“The new Entertainment and Sports Arena is a catalyst in the redevelopment of St. Elizabeths East campus,” said Deputy Mayor Brian Kenner. “Today we celebrate a milestone of transforming this long-vacant project into a thriving and vibrant community.”

In 2015, the Bowser Administration, Events DC and Monumental Sports & Entertainment announced the plans to build this new state-of-the-art Entertainment and Sports Arena at the St. Elizabeths East Campus in Ward 8 in an effort to transform an underserved area in the District.

“This is a monumental day for the District of Columbia and the Ward 8 community. For more than two years, we have worked diligently with Mayor Bowser, city officials and the community to execute the Mayor’s vision to bring a state-of-the-art Entertainment and Sports Arena to the Congress Heights Neighborhood of Washington, DC, that will spur development and offer new jobs for District residents,” said Max Brown, Chairman, Board of Directors, Events DC. “This project enables Events DC to extend its reach by attracting unique events and new visitors to Washington, DC. Thank you to our Mayor, our Board of Directors, city partners and Monumental Sports & Entertainment for helping us achieve this important goal on the way to completing this fantastic new Arena.”

The venue will act as home court for DC’s WNBA team, the Washington Mystics and recently

announced G League team, Capital City Go-Go. It will also serve as the official practice facility for the NBA Washington Wizards and additional entertainment, sports and cultural programming. The 120,000 square-foot facility is projected to produce \$90 million in new tax revenue over 20 years, attract more than 380,000 annual visitors per year to the Congress Heights neighborhood.

“Events DC along with our Mayor, city partners and Monumental Sports & Entertainment are extremely proud to celebrate this important milestone for the Entertainment and Sports Arena project and we applaud Smoot/Gilbane and their construction workers for their hard work and commitment to keeping this project on schedule. The Entertainment and Sports Arena is important not only for the attraction of new events and experiences to the city, but for DC’s greater economic development and job creation. This Arena will serve as a centerpiece for the revitalization of the historic Congress Heights neighborhood,” said Greg O’Dell, president and chief executive officer of Events DC. “We are a world-class destination and with the addition of this 4,200-seat Arena, the District, our nation’s capital, continues to position itself as a vibrant global destination. There’s tremendous momentum occurring throughout DC’s urban core and this Arena reinforces just that.”

As this project is much “Bigger than Basketball,” it will establish a premier entertainment destination within Ward 8 that will open doors to more diverse programming options in the District. It will also attract cultural and community-based events, giving residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy the rich diversity of the DC in a brand-new space.

“Today marks another important milestone as we prepare to open this first-in-class facility for the Wizards, Mystics and our new G-League team, the Capital City Go-Go,” said Ted Leonsis, Founder, Chairman, Majority Owner and CEO of Monumental Sports & Entertainment. “Our commitment to the Ward 8 community goes far deeper than the game of basketball. This project will have the capability to transform a neighborhood and bolster the economy while also ensuring our coaches, athletes and fans have the opportunity to teach, train and cheer at one of the premier venues of its kind.”

In collaboration with Smoot/Gilbane Sports, this project continues to stand behind its commitment to honoring opportunities for local businesses and District residents to bring much-needed economic and civic benefits to the local community. Of the 39 new hires who are DC residents, 46% of them live in either Wards 7 or 8 and 11 Ward 7 and 8 businesses have been hired as subcontractors in trades such as excavation, flooring, roofing and concrete. The project has also exceeded its initial Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) goal set forth with 62% of the contracts awarded to CBEs and \$8.8 million dollars worth of contracts have been awarded to Ward 7 and 8 businesses.

“Not only am I so proud to help lead the Entertainment & Sports Arena project – but I am honored to work with an incredible team of some of the most talented construction management team and finest craftsmen and subcontractors that I’ve ever witnessed. Similar to how the future WNBA Washington Mystics will play and win as a team at this Arena, our team at Smoot/Gilbane Sports, a Joint Venture will win, as we work together toward building a facility that will not only be a cornerstone of this Congress Heights community, but will impact the lives of future generations here in Washington, DC. This has and remains a fast-track project with many long hours and cold and hot weather endured, but we look forward to seeing it across the finish line, where we will play basketball in the fall,” said Mac Naeemi, Project Executive, Smoot Gilbane Sports, A Joint Venture.

This celebratory project milestone also marks the important opportunity to applaud all of the construction workers and subcontractors who have so worked diligently to keep this project on schedule.

“As a DC-native, living in Congress Heights, I am so blessed to be a part of this important project for my city. The chance to work on this project, as a Step-Up Apprentice for R&R Mechanical, has opened up many personal and professional gates of opportunity for both me and my family. Just as this Arena has impacted my life, I hope that it has the ability to impact the lives of many others,

especially local DC youth,” said Perry Barmore, Step-Up Apprentice with R&R Mechanical, a Smoot/Gilbane Sports Joint Venture.

Events DC along with its project teams, Brailsford & Dunlavy as the program management team, the architect/engineer joint venture of Washington Area Design Group, comprised of ROSSETTI and Marshall Moya Design and Smoot/Gilbane Sports as the construction management team, have played a key role in the planning, design and construction of the new facility.

This significant topping out milestone truly signifies the progress for this community-changing project. Completion is scheduled for September 2018 and Events DC will operate and manage the Arena.

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Social Media:

Mayor Bowser Twitter: @MayorBowser

Mayor Bowser Instagram: @Mayor_Bowser

Mayor Bowser Facebook: facebook.com/MayorMurielBowser

Mayor Bowser Website: mayor.dc.gov

Events DC Twitter: @TheEventsDC

Events DC Instagram: @EventsDC

Monumental Sports & Entertainment Twitter: @MSE

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