



GREEKTOWN MODERNIZES, RENOVATES, AND OPENS NEW RESTAURANTS AND BARS, DESPITE PANDEMIC

DETROIT, Mich., March 9, 2021 – Greektown is pleased to welcome three new restaurants and bars, and also the renovation of three existing businesses, all while meeting the challenges of the pandemic. The historic Greektown entertainment and cultural district, rich in food and beverage, has been deeply impacted by the effects of COVID-19 and has made great strides to address that impact by proactively planning for their future. New businesses in historic Greektown include the Pig’s Tail Cocktail Lounge and Rooftop, Bakalikon, and The Lobby, and renovations of Golden Fleece Restaurant, Pappy’s Sports Bar & Grill, and the Atheneum Suite Hotel.

Greektown’s longest standing Greek restaurant, Golden Fleece, took the opportunity to fully reimagine the interior space during the pandemic pause. A full renovation, the restaurant has modernized with fresh Greek design, art, and plants that speak to the legacy of the Greektown district and adapting for patrons’ changing tastes. The restaurant now has a bar area and an updated menu of Greek favorites, adding vegetarian and vegan options. Owners Yanni and Spero Dionisopoulos will also open Bakalikon this spring, a new Greek wine bar and grocer which will feature Greek wines, upscale meze, and grab-and-go Greek products. During the pandemic, they have operated a pop-up of Bakalikon in the Exodos Rooftop space above. “For over 50 years, Golden Fleece has celebrated Greek culture and we continue to expand that authentic Greek feel through opening Bakalikon, as well as through Exodos Rooftop. The pandemic has hit our Greektown community hard, but we’re committed to meeting that challenge together as a community,” said Yanni Dionisopoulos.

The new Pig’s Tail Cocktail Lounge and Rooftop is planning to open in time for Tigers Opening Day. Located above the Red Smoke Barbeque, the second level is an intimate 40-seat cocktail lounge that will feature 100 types of bourbon along with other types of drinks. It also will have a rooftop lounge with an additional 50 seats that features spectacular views of Old St. Mary’s Church, Monroe Street, and Greektown Casino and Hotel. The design with charred wood is a play on the charred oak barrels of bourbon. Virtuoso Design, Andrew Owens Designs, and A.L. Construction collaborated on both the second level and rooftop. The proprietor, Tasso Teftsis, also owns Astoria Pastry Shop and Red Smoke Barbeque, with deep roots in the Greek community. “During this last difficult year in our business in Greektown my neighbors have showed that they will not give up but instead double down on their community. Many have made major renovations and other have taken the time to make their businesses more attractive. We are very conscious of our role to enhance and preserve our history and heritage in Greektown.”

The Atheneum Suite Hotel has also undergone a major interior renovation to their lobby, meeting spaces, and bar incorporating modern, Greek-inspired design. Opening in 1992, the Atheneum has stood as a pillar in Detroit’s hospitality industry, honoring the neighborhood’s Greek history and culture. The renovation, over a year-long in the making, took five months to complete construction. Under the direction of Chef Petro Drakopoulos, the new bar and restaurant concept, The Lobby, features an American menu with international influences and innovative hand-crafted cocktails. “The Greektown district has been a vibrant area within Detroit for decades. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Greektown’s spirit of hospitality and our patrons are at the forefront of everything we do. We look forward to welcoming guests to our district in a safe manner,” said Athina Papas, Board President of Greektown Neighborhood Partnership whose family owns Pegasus Taverna and Atheneum Suite Hotel.

Pappy’s Sports Bar & Grill has also made renovations to their business interior during the pandemic and will rebrand as the Three Legged Goat this spring, with outside improvements and new signage.

The design for Golden Fleece, Atheneum Suite Hotel, and Pappy’s Sports Bar & Grill was spearheaded by Olon Interior (www.oloninterior.com). Designers Dimitris Kostopoulos and Nicole Jimos bring their vision to

Greektown by creating fresh and eclectic concept designs inspired by European styles. They have a solid understanding of the values and traditions of the Greek culture and they are more than pleased to bring a modern flare to hospitality. “The Greek culture has a strong backbone of resilience through times of adversity, and our lifestyle philosophy thrives on deep human connection, this is what hospitality is – a celebration of togetherness in a community. Our vision is to communicate the essence of Greek tradition and philoxenia by designing beautiful and modern environments and help Greektown become a prime destination point,” said Kostopoulos.

The Greektown Casino-Hotel, recently opening Barstool Sportsbook, also plans to activate the south side of Monroe Street with new businesses in the near future.

For more information about Greektown and our COVID-19 Response, please visit www.GreektownDetroit.org.

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About Greektown Detroit

Greektown is a celebrated entertainment and cultural district, serving both Detroiters and visitors from around the world all year round. The traditional center of Detroit’s Greek community, the Greektown neighborhood is one of the last surviving Victorian-era commercial streetscapes in downtown Detroit. Lively Monroe Street is the heartbeat of historic Greektown, and our district is bounded by Gratiot, Randolph, Lafayette, and I-375. For more information, visit www.GreektownDetroit.org.

About the Greektown Neighborhood Partnership

Greektown Neighborhood Partnership is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the long-term economic and cultural vibrancy of Greektown. Through partnerships, we advance the equitable development of the district through community and economic development programs, all while celebrating our cultural roots. Our organization is charged with implementing the [Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision](#), a strategic community planning initiative announced last fall, with design strategies focused around connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and the downtown core, increasing built density, the introduction of new public open spaces connected by activated pedestrian paths, and the creation of a mixed-use neighborhood. For more information, visit www.GreektownDetroit.org.

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