



### **Statement from the Courtyard Restaurant**

To our valued customers, loyal employees and many friends;

As you may know, the Courtyard Restaurant was struck by fire on July 22nd. We wanted to let you all know what happened, and what our plans are for the immediate and short-term future. The fire began in the ceiling near the exhaust ducts for the kitchen, and spread to the flooring of one of the rooms on our second floor. We are extremely thankful that, due to the quick thinking of our staff, the building was quickly evacuated and none of our patrons or staff members were put in danger, however we are all also worried about the impact this fire has on our customers, clients and staff.

The only damage to the public areas of the restaurant was to the flooring in our McArthur Room, but there was some more serious damage to our kitchen. Our landlords, the National Capital Commission, are already making arrangements for the repair of our heritage property; and at this point we anticipate re-opening in late August or early September. We will continue to keep you updated as the repairs progress and our re-opening date becomes definite. We have also been working diligently to find solutions for our clients who have events scheduled with us, as well as for our loyal staff members who are greatly affected by our closure.

Our neighbours in the ByWard market hospitality industry have been very generous and helpful, hiring some of our staff on a temporary basis. Currently we are concentrating our efforts on finding solutions for our clients and staff during the month of August (and possibly September). To that end, we have entered into an agreement with Foundation Restaurant for many of our events, whereby the Courtyard will use Foundation's private room as an alternate venue for those clients who desire to use this space, providing the Courtyard Restaurant's excellent food and service in a nearby space. Chef Michael Hay and his staff will take over the kitchen at Foundation for these events, continuing to serve the Courtyard menus as promised, and our excellent service staff will serve the event ensuring that our high standards are met. The Courtyard is committed to helping our clientele and our staff during this difficult time, and we are working closely on a case-by-case basis with all of our clients who have reserved during the closure to help them to find solutions.

We anticipate re-opening shortly with the same services and décor as prior to the fire, and we look forward to welcoming back our loyal clientele. The only noticeable changes will be a brand new carpet on the second floor, and a new and improved kitchen.

The Courtyard restaurant staff and management want you to know we are working tirelessly to find solutions for our clients, and that we are touched and gratified that so many in our community have reached out to us with offers of support during this difficult time.

For further information please contact:

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