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**Contact: Kim Butler  
(609) 347-0500**

## **CASINO REINVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ADVANCES INITIATIVES TO MAKE ATLANTIC CITY A PREMIER TOURISM DESTINATION**

**ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (July 17, 2013)** – Continuing Governor Christie’s commitment to making Atlantic City a premier tourism destination for visitors and families, the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority Board (CRDA Board) took action yesterday on several items to enhance the City’s appearance and broaden its appeal, including the repair and replacement of streetlights and the attraction of non-gaming events and entertainment to the City.

Charged with attracting new investment and development of non-gaming attractions for the destination, the CRDA Board heard a proposal from the Garden State Film Festival to move their annual event from Asbury Park to Atlantic City. Citing the opportunity to better serve its guests, increase its ever growing attendance and even relocate its offices to Atlantic City, the Garden State Film Festival preliminary determination of project eligibility received unanimous support from the CRDA Board.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for Atlantic City,” said Board Chairman James Kehoe. “This event has shown continued growth throughout its history and could become a signature event for Atlantic City.”

The Atlantic City Ballet and Atlantic City Dance Theater also received support from the CRDA. The Board approved a preliminary determination of project eligibility for the Atlantic City Ballet to be in residence at Boardwalk Hall. The Atlantic City Dance Theater was awarded a grant to support the Incubator for Talented Youth Performing Arts, which will produce a series of four performances at Kennedy Plaza in July and August.

The CRDA awarded a grant to DelMo Sports for the Atlantic City Triathlon for the 2013 event scheduled for September at Bader Field. Fresh from the official dedication ceremony of the Atlantic City Armory with Acting Attorney General John Hoffman, the CRDA Board took action to accept \$40,000 from the Department of Law & Public Safety for the purchase of recreational equipment and approved authorization allowing CRDA to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Law & Public Safety and the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs.

The Board also approved today an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Atlantic City and Atlantic City Electric for up to \$500,000 for repair and replacement of street lighting within the Tourism District.

“CRDA, the City and Atlantic City Electric have been working to address lighting issues in the Tourism District and throughout the City, said John Palmieri, CRDA Executive Director. “Since February 2013, over 300 lights have been placed back into operation. There are another 120 or so that need attention on just the main thoroughfares throughout the City, and this action will help us address those lights and continue the momentum for a cleaner and safer Atlantic City.”

CRDA Executive Director Palmieri noted publicly that late summer and early fall would be an especially busy time as the Harrah’s Conference Center and Bass Pro Shops were actively planning their groundbreakings on the heels of the Miss America Competition. Additional details are expected in the next thirty days.

Board actions will take effect following the expiration of the Governor’s statutory review period.

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**About the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) [www.njcrda.com](http://www.njcrda.com)**

The only agency of its kind nationwide- the CRDA has used Atlantic City casino reinvestments as a catalyst for meaningful, positive improvement in the lives of New Jersey residents statewide, investing nearly \$2 billion in more than 400 projects statewide. Under the 2011 Tourism District legislation, CRDA responsibilities have expanded to include Land Use Regulation, Clean and Safe initiatives, attracting and retaining conventions and meetings at the Atlantic City Convention Center and Boardwalk Hall and partnership with the Atlantic City Alliance to market and attract visitors to Atlantic City.