

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 20, 2019

Darin Beck, Barmuda Companies
Cedar Falls, Iowa (319) 266-9994
darin@barmuda.com

Local Investment Group Buys Barmuda's Assets.

Darin Beck of Barmuda Companies has sold all of his business assets to the Company's primary lender. The bank has since sold some of those assets to Paramount Capital, a local group of investors. Beck will be retained as President and CEO of the new conglomerated company which will be made up of a new Management Company, Deringer's Public Parlor, Voodoo Lounge, Lark Brewing, a new Stuffed Olive in downtown Cedar Falls, Shag's Des Moines, and both iTech's in Cedar Falls and Urbandale. The local investment group is made up of 4 people from Beck's past ventures. Aaron Schurman, Marty Van Zee and Josh Wilson of Phantom EFX along with local developer Jeff Hassman make up the ownership of Paramount Capital. Beck was one of four founding partners in Phantom EFX but left in 2012 after it was sold to William's Interactive. Beck, Schurman and Van Zee had been business partners from 1999 to 2012.

The investment group and Beck have decided to get mostly out of the restaurant business to focus on the bar and brewery business moving forward. That means Beck's Taproom Grill at Crossroads will not be part of the assets purchased by the Paramount Group and will not be reopened.

Beck had this to say about the sale; "I never dreamed I'd find myself in such a position after working so hard to develop my businesses for so many years. The past few years have been very difficult for my businesses without access to lending to help us get past some major losses we've had to endure. I made some critical mistakes in the past decade that have taken their toll on our companies. The overall debt just became more than the Company could handle and I am no longer in a position to continue doing it on my own. The combination of never-ending litigation with Midtown Development's Donna Nelson, and the closure of our Hurricane branded stores all came at a very high price. We have not had successful access to lending since the trial regarding the Black's building in Waterloo that took place in September of 2016. Black's had closed in August of 2011. The costly legal fees along with the liens that were placed on all of my assets have proved to outlast my ability to keep the companies solvent. The bars have always done very well and continue to do so, but for me it's too late, as the overall debt outweighs our ability to repay it. I am incredibly grateful that the Paramount group has stepped forward and offered to find a way to save the great traditions that Barmuda's bars have created over the years. I truly believe we have improved the quality of life in the Cedar Valley over the past 33 years. The hardest part in all this for me is acknowledging the failures, closing the last Beck's location, and letting people down, as this will mean the end of the Barmuda Brand as the Community has come to know it. Gift cards and rewards cards will continue to be honored at the bars and Lark Brewing for an extended period of time, but the overall Corporate branding will most likely

change as we plot a new course moving forward. I'd like to thank all of the people who have supported me and my companies over the past 33 years and all the wonderful people that have worked for me. I have truly loved every minute of serving the Cedar Valley with great places to eat, drink and have fun. When I moved here in 1986 I didn't intend to stay, but I fell in love with the town and the people here and just never left. I have since raised a family here and consider it my home town. I didn't have much when I got here so I feel incredibly blessed by the people of the Cedar Valley and grateful to the Paramount Group to be able to continue doing what I love. The Paramount Group is bringing the financial stability that it takes to compete and conduct business in today's highly competitive market. I am excited to see how much success we can create by having the resources needed to grow again and I can't wait for everyone to see the all new Stuffed Olive in the coming months!"

Beck's Food and Beverage Establishments over the past 33 years in the Cedar Valley include: Club Shagnasty's, Boliver T's Pizza Factories, Coyote's, Joker's, Beck's Sports Grills, Soho Sushi Bar & Deli, Bourbon Street, Voodoo Lounge, Park Place Event Centre, Ferrari's Ristorante, Mojoes Pizza House, Ice Lounge, Beck's College Hill, Black's 501 Steakhouse, Sky Event Centre, Noble Oak, and Deringer's. "I'd like to think that we've played a role in making the Cedar Valley a better place live, work and play. I feel like Barmuda did a good job of developing the next generation of food and beverage operators and has had an impact on the character of our community over the years. Thanks to the Paramount investors, I'll be able to continue contributing to the local culture for at least a few more years, albeit in a smaller way than in the past." Said Beck.