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NEWS RELEASE

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GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP, MAYOR PARKER, COUNTY JUDGE EMMETT, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS JOIN FORCES IN SUPPORT OF CONTINENTAL AIRLINES

HOUSTON – The Greater Houston Partnership joined forces today with Mayor Annise Parker, County Judge Ed Emmett, a representative from Governor Rick Perry's office, State Sen. Rodney Ellis and other elected officials as well as business and community leaders, to urge board members of Continental and United Airlines to include Houston stakeholders in the selection process discussions regarding the location of the merged airline's headquarters.

"We understand the value of merger talks between the two airlines," said GHP Chairman Patrick Oxford. "We fully appreciate the difficulty of being a stand-alone airline trying to navigate in the tough and competitive global airline marketplace. That's why we want to equip the board members and leadership of each airline with the necessary information to help them in their decision-making process regarding where to locate their corporate headquarters.

"We also know that prudence requires you to be fully informed by engaging the leaders from both cities under consideration before making that choice" Oxford continued.

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While board members and leaders of the airlines are embargoed and cannot publicly discuss the negotiations, GHP, along with Mayor Annise Parker, Judge Ed Emmett and other elected officials and business and community leaders, have been aggressively engaged in reaching out to all relevant leaders at Continental and United Airlines to make a case for why Houston is the ideal location for its corporate headquarters.

“We believe it could be a win-win for both cities to be included in these discussions,” said Jeff Moseley, President and CEO of GHP. “It goes without saying that we want to be the home of the world’s largest airline for many reasons. We’re a city on the rise. Locating the corporate headquarters of the world’s largest airline in Houston would mean more jobs, a better economy, civic pride and direct access to domestic and global markets.”

Since 2005, there have been at least 694 corporate relocations and/or expansions into the Houston region. Supporting this fact, *Site Selection* magazine ranked Houston number one for new and expanded corporate facility projects in 2009.

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The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary advocate of Houston’s business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With about 2,000 Member organizations, the Partnership represents approximately one-fifth of the region’s work force. Visit the Greater Houston Partnership at houston.org.