



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Lisa Liotta, Deputy Director  
Community Redevelopment Agency-Downtown District  
City of Hollywood  
Office: (954) 921-3016  
lliotta@hollywoodfl.org

## **National Retailer Signs Lease in Downtown Hollywood**

Kilwin's, which is known around the country for its handmade fine chocolates and ice cream, is one of two new businesses – and the first national retailer – to decide to set up shop in the historic downtown district.

The popular confectionery shop and a new family-style Italian restaurant are the latest businesses to recognize the allure of Downtown Hollywood and sign leases for space along Hollywood Boulevard. Kilwin's will take over the 1,600-square-foot site at 1907 Hollywood Boulevard and Saratoga Ristorante Italiano will soon open at 1917 Hollywood Boulevard.

Restaurateur Julio Hernei owned seven Italian eateries in New York and Florida before setting his sights on a Downtown Hollywood location. He was attracted to the nearly 5,000-square-foot storefront's perfect fit with his needs, including its seating capacity and proximity to South Florida's horse racing industry. Hernei's business partner is Malvern Burroughs, a champion driver in the sport of harness racing, and their new restaurant is named for New York's famed Saratoga Race Course.

Hernei is excited to be joining the Downtown Hollywood business community and sees endless opportunities with the redevelopment activity taking place in the historic arts and entertainment district including the establishment of the award-winning ArtsPark at Young Circle.

With the opening of Kilwin's, Downtown Hollywood joins a list of 70 key locations around the country for the confectioner that include popular visitor destinations such as Gatlinburg, Tennessee, Ann Arbor, Michigan, as well as, South Florida hotspots such as Weston's Main Street, East Atlantic Boulevard in Delray Beach and Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

"Kilwin's selection of Downtown Hollywood for its new location is a testament to the strong retail potential here," said Neil Fritz, Executive Director, City of Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency-Downtown District. "We share the excitement of downtown visitors in welcoming this prominent national retailer to our diverse family of local businesses."