



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Popular Downtown Hollywood Restaurant Announces Exciting Changes

HOLLYWOOD, FL – August 20, 2008, Universe Café may have a new owner and an updated menu, but the Downtown Hollywood restaurant's recipe for success remains unchanged.

Since it opened on Hollywood Boulevard in 2004, Universe Café has enjoyed popularity among both locals and visitors who appreciate exceptional cuisine and impeccable service in a casual elegant setting.

New owner Mitch Marlowe took over both Universe Café and Taverna Yiamas, a Greek restaurant formerly known as the Hollywood Café, in May. Marlowe also is an entrepreneur whose ventures have included owning a Top Fuel drag racing team, a Harley-Davidson shop, a sports bar and the landmark Oceans Eleven Lounge on Hollywood Beach.

Marlowe sold the sports bar in his native Atlanta in March and moved back to South Florida. He was "kind of looking" for a new restaurant when the two Downtown businesses fortuitously became available.

Marlowe was attracted to the "forward movement" taking place in the Downtown District. "They're bringing it back to life," he said.

The Downtown renaissance is reflected in the success of local businesses such as Universe Café, where unparalleled food, service and ambiance come together in a memorable dining experience inside the restaurant or under the palm trees on the outdoor patio and sidewalk.

Inspired by South Florida's diverse cultures and cooking styles, Universe Café offers a world of delicious choices to excite every palate. The new menu features favorite starters; burgers, wraps and creative sandwiches; several varieties of pizza, pasta and fresh salads; and entrées that include steak, chicken and fish dishes.

There are daily lunch and dinner specials, with a 14-oz. prime rib available every Friday, as well as mouthwatering desserts, a diverse wine list, specialty cocktails and custom martinis.

Happy Hour features two-for-one well drinks, domestic and imported beer specials, and \$5 martinis from 6 to 9 p.m. Popular local musicians perform Thursday through Saturday nights, and NFL games will be televised for the added enjoyment of patrons.

Universe Café opens at 11:30 a.m. daily at 1925 Hollywood Blvd., in the heart of Hollywood's vibrant Downtown District. For more information, call (954) 920-3774 or visit www.universecafehollywood.com.

For additional information on Taverna Yiamas, at 1948 Hollywood Blvd., call (954) 925-1001.

The Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was created under the authority of Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969. The CRA's mission is to encourage economic development through the use of tax increment financing by funding development, special projects and enhanced services that address areas of community concern. The Downtown District was established in 1979 to promote Hollywood's central business district including Historic Hollywood Boulevard, Young Circle and nearby residential neighborhoods. The Downtown District is approximately 580 acres and extends from 22nd Avenue on the west to generally 17th Avenue on the east, Johnson Street on the north and Washington Street on the south.