

**NEWS RELEASE**

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# SAVANNAH DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL AUTHORITY TO HOST FORMER CHARLESTON MAYOR JOE RILEY FOR SAVANNAH URBANISM SERIES

*October 17, 2016*

**[SAVANNAH, Ga]** Engel & Völkers Savannah and NAI Mopper Benton in partnership with the Savannah Development and Renewal Authority (SDRA) announce former Charleston Mayor Joseph “Joe” Riley, Jr. as guest speaker at the Savannah Urbanism Series, a biannual event featuring renowned professionals from across the U.S. speaking on topics ranging from urban design to development and revitalization. The free event will take place on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at The Savannah Theatre (222 Bull Street) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The second installment of the Savannah Urbanism Series, **Building Beauty in the Urban Environment** will explore how sound planning and preservation can foster an engaging city fabric and create economic growth and better quality of life for the people therein. By sharing his insights and decades of experience, Mr. Riley will demonstrate how political leadership and individual stakeholders alike can enhance our infrastructure and public spaces and refine our strategies for development in the future.

SDRA’s Chairman of the Board, Richard “Dicky” Mopper says, “Engel & Völkers Savannah is thrilled to present the second installment of the Savannah Urbanism Series with Joe Riley. Riley has been honored nationally as one of the nation’s outstanding mayors for his vision in urban design, and his legacy can be felt in every corner of the historic city of Charleston. This is something our city leadership should pay attention to as Savannah is positioned for excellent growth.”

The timing could not be better for Savannah to welcome nationally renowned speaker, Riley when he comes to town on Thursday. No stranger to adversity, when Hurricane Hugo slammed into Charleston in 1989, Riley won wide praise for getting the city cleaned up quickly and back on its feet. As Savannahians begin to rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, there’s a lot we can learn from other communities and leaders who have faced similar devastation.

The talk with Joe Riley will take place on Thursday, October 20th at The Savannah Theatre located at 222 Bull Street. A reception sponsored by the Downtown Neighborhood Association of Savannah will be held in the lobby from 5 - 5:30 p.m. with Riley taking the stage from 5:30 - 7 p.m. The event is free, however registration is encouraged through Eventbrite: <https://thesavannahurbanismseries.eventbrite.com>. Credit is available for AIA/AICP members. Event sponsors include Engel & Völkers Savannah, NAI Mopper Benton - Savannah Commercial Real Estate, Brown Design Studio, Downtown Neighborhood Association of Savannah, Thomas & Hutton ENG Co and Longleaf Partners.

For questions about the event, contact Kevin Klinkenberg at [kevink@sdra.net](mailto:kevink@sdra.net), for media inquiries contact Amy Brock at [amy@amybrockmarketing.com](mailto:amy@amybrockmarketing.com).

