

DISNEY TARGETS MORE BAHAMAS EXPANSION

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DISNEY Cruise Line is continuing to explore new projects in the Bahamas, its top executive saying it plans to make a significant investment in its private island.

Karl Holz, president of Disney Cruise Lines, while addressing a Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) 'Wind Down' event at Luciano's last week, said that as the company expands its business,

the Bahamas will be a part of that growth.

"As we expand our business, the Bahamas will certainly be a part of our growth story. In the meantime, we continue to make regular calls in the Bahamas. The islands are an integral part of our cruise business," said Mr Holz.

Back in July, Disney revealed it had no plans to construct a private cruise port at Egg Island off Eleuthera, saying environmental impact studies (EIAs) had suggested the island's marine environment could not sustain a

development of that magnitude.

Mr Holz said, though, that the company was "continuing to explore other projects in the Bahamas which could result in further economic benefits".

He added that Disney Cruise Lines is also making 'significant investments' in Castaway Cay, its private island in the Abacos. These developments include a wastewater treatment plant, and warehouse and fibre optic replacement, with 100 per cent Bahamian contractors involved.

Mr Holz said Castaway Cay is currently hiring additional employees, and added that Disney Cruise Lines is committed to future collaboration and partnership with the Bahamas.

Disney is partnering with the Nassau-based LJM Maritime Academy. "Just this past Monday, in negotiations with the ITF, we got approval to launch the apprenticeship programme. That will give people who are studying the maritime programme the opportunity to get sea time on our ships," Mr Holz said.

SANDYPORT UNVEILS \$5M OFFICE PRODUCT

SANDYPORT Development Company has unveiled the \$5 million addition of its Church Street Commercial Centre at the Olde Towne, Sandyport, with 52 per cent of available space already rented.

"There's been strong demand in the market for well built, turnkey office space for small to medium-sized professional firms moving west," said Sandyport president, Garth Buckner.

"People know that Baha Mar will eventually be sorted out and, when it is, the centre of gravity on the island will move west. Sandyport's location is perfect at the western end of Cable Beach, close to the new highways and new airport. We have well-designed, turnkey new space, plenty of free parking, 24-hour security, stand-by power generation, fast Internet and an unbeatable quality of life."

The 12,716 square foot office complex features 14 office suites, with finishes that include granite kitchen counters, central AC, and wood flooring in board rooms, ranging in size from 580 to 1,400 square feet.

The offices feature back-up power generation, an elevator, 24-hour security including CCTV, and a 400-space free parking lot.

"The response has been incredible," says Sandyport broker Jolika Buckner. "We built Church Street because we were running close to 100 per cent full in our existing office buildings, and there was more demand."

"The new building has been leasing quickly, and we currently have nine of the 14 offices suites, comprising 52 per cent of the overall square footage, rented, with

our first tenants already in."

She added: "We have a mix of tenants, ranging from finance companies, offshore banks, to law firms and a specialist educator focused on computer programme training for adults and children."

"They have added to the Olde Towne, Sandyport's already diverse group of corporate tenants. There is a movement to the west for both local and international firms, partly because their clients are this way; partly because the quality of life is better; and parking and driving are easier than other locations."

"We have some 57 business here already - from Club One gym, to First Caribbean Bank, a Government post office, several popular restaurants including Spritz, Twisted Lime and Blue Sail, as well as insurance companies, medical practices, law firms, accountants, IT firms, as well as some top specialty stores like Young's Champagne."

Sandyport has already started construction on phase 2 of the Church Street Commercial Centre based on existing demand.

Ms Buckner said: "We build out A Class quality interiors, the type you would get in a 10,000 square foot bank, but we aim the product squarely at professional firms with one to three or four partners plus support staff."

"And we make sure we have all of their concerns covered in terms of back-up power, security and parking. There are very few other locations on the island where firms of that size can find a ready-made product for them."

LAW FIRM CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY



CHANCELLORS
Chambers membership comprises: (seated L to R): Nadia Wright, partner; Merrit Storr, managing partner; Onan Lamour-Williams, partner. Standing L to R: Mr. Paul D. Knowles, partner; Eugenea Butler, associate and Antoine Thompson, associate.

A BAHAMIAN law firm is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a full-service commercial law firm.

Located at No. 16 Village Road, Chancellors Chambers is a member of the international network of law firms known as Meritas, encompassing more than 175 companies around the globe.

It is able to draw on the network's expertise to assist its clients wherever they may need legal services internationally.

The current Partnership of the Chancellors comprises: Merrit Storr, managing partner; Nadia Wright; Onan Lamour-Williams; and Paul D. Knowles. The firm also has two associate attorneys, Eugenea Butler and Antoine Thompson, and a support staff.

The partners, in celebrating the firm's 10th anniversary, marked the occasion by making donations to two charities - the Children's Emergency Hostel and the Persis Rogers Home for the Aged.

Chancellors Chambers was founded in February 2006 by Kenred Dorsett, a former partner of Lennox

Paton and Halsbury Chambers.

Mr Dorsett, the firm's first managing partner, has been inactive since May

2012, at which time he became the MP for Southern Shores. He serves as Minister of the Environment and Housing.

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