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## **Hill Partners Sparks Retail Growth for Asheville Area**

*Hill Partners Inc. opens new office and appoints Curtis S. Williams to lead expansion*

**Charlotte, NC (October 30, 2008)** – Hill Partners, Inc., a commercial real estate firm specializing in providing innovative retail development solutions, is pleased to announce the opening of a local satellite office in Asheville, North Carolina to support the ongoing office and retail leasing program, along with the company's on-going development efforts on its expanding portfolio in Historic Biltmore Village.

Hill Partners, Inc. has appointed Curtis S. Williams as leasing manager to spearhead growth for the new Asheville office. Williams will concentrate on both leasing the office and retail segments of Biltmore Village. Before joining Hill Partners, Inc., Williams worked for CBL & Associates Properties, Inc. as a leasing manager, where he leased the lifestyle center at the Gulf Coast Town Center in Fort Myers, FL. Williams has strong local connections in Asheville as he was responsible for leasing Asheville Mall for CBL during his tenure. Williams also helped lead the leasing expansion for The Mills Corporation on The Shops at Riverside in Hackensack, NJ. Some of Williams' past successes include leasing transactions for Barnes & Noble, Gap, Banana Republic, Wet Seal, Build-A-Bear and Bath & Body Works.

Biltmore Village's Phase I of development opened in May, 2008 and has already achieved year-to-date retail sales representing 15 to 50 percent over projections. Phase I included the successful openings of Williams-Sonoma, J. Crew, Chico's, Coldwater Creek, Pi Salon.Spa, Talbots, Talbots Petites and Talbots Woman in the dynamic retail community. As a result of the success of Phase I, Phase II, which will include an additional 31,000 square foot of street retail space, is expected to open in late 2009 and Phase III is currently in the planning stages.

Hill Partners, Inc., founded in 1983, concentrates on three basic divisions: Project Conceptualization, which includes feasibility studies, strategic planning, merchandising and market research; Project Implementation, which includes design management, development/construction management and merchant recruitment; and Property/Asset Management, including operations, tenant relations, consumer marketing and accounting.

**[www.HillPartnersInc.com](http://www.HillPartnersInc.com)**