

Riviera Holdings Corporation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**RIVIERA ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF RON JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT OF GAMING OPERATIONS AND PRESIDENT OF RIVIERA BLACK HAWK**

LAS VEGAS, NV – May 17, 2006 -- Riviera Holdings Corporation (AMEX: RIV) announced today that Ronald P. Johnson, Executive Vice President of Gaming Operations of Riviera Operating Corporation and President of Riviera Black Hawk, Inc., has resigned for personal reasons effective May 16, 2006.

The Company also announced that Chief Executive Officer William L. Westerman has been appointed to Mr. Johnson's position as President of Riviera Black Hawk, Inc. effective May 16, 2006.

Mr. Westerman said, "We appreciate Ron's 15 years of dedication and service to the Company, especially his contribution to the development of our successful Black Hawk Casino, and wish him well on his future endeavors."

About Riviera Holdings Corporation

Riviera Holdings Corporation owns and operates the Riviera Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip and the Riviera Black Hawk Casino in Black Hawk, Colorado. Riviera Holdings Corporation's stock is listed on the American Stock Exchange ("AMEX") under the symbol RIV.

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