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*Steve Costello, president of the Bradley Center Sports & Entertainment Corporation, today released the following statement regarding the Bradley Center's annual financial report covering fiscal 2009:*

“The Bradley Center continues to be in stable fiscal condition, but the past year has been challenging. Like most businesses in America, the Bradley Center has felt the effects of the tough economy, the deep recession and the direct impact both have had on consumer discretionary spending.

“The sports and entertainment industry relies a great deal on discretionary spending. When consumers cut back, we're one of the first to feel it. While attendance at events remained flat in the last fiscal year, per-capita spending was down, and it's clear that the patrons who still attend events aren't spending as much as they did previously on parking in our lots, buying food and beverages at our concession stands and purchasing merchandise in our shops.

“Concert and special event programming is critically important to the financial wellbeing of the Bradley Center and our tenants, and after a very successful string of record setting years for special event and concert programming at the Bradley Center, our fiscal 2009 saw both fewer shows and lower average attendance, contributing to a decline in operating revenue versus the prior year.

“Further, the tough business climate has contributed to a decline in our critically important suite and premium services business. While we are encouraged by the many businesses that continue to see value in the broad programming the Bradley Center offers, continued widespread support of the Bradley Center by the business community remains an essential component of our long term stability.

“Despite the economic challenges that so many are facing, the Bradley Center has continued to be able to support its tenants in a meaningful way and provide a top-quality entertainment experience to the more than 1.5 million people who pass through our doors every year. With the help of a dedicated staff and a committed volunteer Board of Directors, the Bradley Center remains a solid community asset and a continuing tribute to the generosity and civic spirit of the late Jane Bradley Pettit.

“We are already in the midst of a strong concert season for fiscal 2010, and with the success of our four exciting home teams and an exciting NCAA basketball tourney on the horizon, like everyone else, we look forward to an economic recovery and improved financial results in fiscal 2010.”