



## TGI FRIDAYS™ ANNOUNCES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TRANSITION

*Aslam Khan joins Fridays board, Ray Blanchette joins Fridays as the company's new Chief Executive Officer*

**DALLAS, OCTOBER 2, 2018** – TGI Fridays, a global and iconic brand recognized as "America's Bar & Grill," today announced an executive-level transition that will accelerate the company's growth trajectory and performance across more than 870 Fridays restaurants around the world. Restaurant industry veteran Ray Blanchette has been named Chief Executive Officer following the appointment of Aslam Khan to Vice Chairman of the board. Mr. Khan will work with the board in supporting Ray in his new position.

Mr. Khan, an accomplished entrepreneur and long-time restaurant executive who joined TGI Fridays in April of 2017, will assume the Vice Chairman position effective immediately. Under his leadership, TGI Fridays more than doubled earnings from the previous year and is poised for further growth and expansion. "I'm honored that our Board has entrusted me with the great responsibilities of vice chairmanship," said Mr. Khan. "My time as CEO has been incredibly rewarding, but this is both the next logical step for me, and the right time to take it. Our foundation is strong, our processes and protocols are sound, and our team is the best in the business. I am genuinely proud and pleased to turn over my officer responsibilities to Ray, an outstanding leader whose business acumen, drive and operational knowledge will help lead Fridays in the years to come."

Mr. Blanchette comes to TGI Fridays from Ruby Tuesday where he served as Chief Executive Officer. Prior to his tenure at Ruby Tuesday, Mr. Blanchette served as CEO at both Au Bon Pain and Ignite Restaurant Group, the parent company of Joe's Crab Shack and Brick House Tap & Tavern Brands. He is a seasoned executive with over 25 years of leadership experience in the restaurant industry.

"I am privileged to become the CEO of TGI Fridays," said Mr. Blanchette. "I started my career at TGI Fridays, where I worked for 18 years. I have great passion for this brand, and it is my dream job. As we move forward and continue our focus on being the best Bar & Grill in the world, I see great things ahead for our guests, team members and this company."

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### **About TGI Fridays**

In 1965, TGI Fridays opened its first location in New York City. More than 50 years later, Fridays operates more than 870 restaurants in 59 countries, offering high-quality, authentic American food and legendary drinks backed by genuine service. Bringing people together to socialize and celebrate the spirit of "Friday" is core to our promise that "In Here, It's Always Friday®." Visit [www.Fridays.com](http://www.Fridays.com) for more information and download our [mobile app](#). Join [Fridays Rewards](#)<sup>SM</sup> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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