



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **First Companies Completes New Retail Building in Byron Center**

*Offers premium location for Verizon Wireless, ChowHound and Subway*

August 2, 2016 – Grand Rapids, Mich.

First Companies announced today the company has completed a new 10,000+ square foot retail building at 5811 Byron Center Avenue occupied by Subway and ChowHound, and soon, Verizon Wireless. Located just off M-6 highway, local residents now have easy access to several popular retailers in the growing Byron Center area. The building provides great visibility for its tenants who chose the location because of the convenience, building design, and high-end finishes that reflect their quality brands.

“When First Companies approached us on the Byron Center building, we were immediately interested,” commented Ruben Ysasi, Vice President of Business Development at Subway Development of Western Michigan. “We had been watching the market with the goal of opening a store to serve the traffic from M-6. This location delivers what customers have requested: easy access off the highway, drive-through service, and conveniences like free WiFi. We saw this as an opportunity to meet market demand as well as implement the future design direction for Subway stores, with a more upscale ‘metro feel’ that appeals to customers.”

“This is our ninth location in Western Michigan,” said Greg Keane, President, ChowHound, “and we’ve already experienced a huge response from the neighborhood. People have been waiting for a pet supply retailer to come into the area and we expect this store to be a big hit. The new color scheme, quality finishes, open ceiling, and updated self-dog wash will all become standard for our stores going forward.”

“When I saw the quality of the building, the other tenants, and the location on Byron Center Avenue, I was very excited,” shared Darryl Bartlett, President, 4 ONE Enterprises and franchisee for Verizon Wireless. “This is a highly visible, convenient location, and an area where people want to shop and run errands. The building is very attractive, perfect for the new design we are implementing as a Verizon beta site. We’ll be one of just four stores in the U.S. built to showcase a wide range of devices running off wireless services that customers can touch and interact with.”

“We are pleased to be a part of offering more convenient shopping for local residents in a high-quality, comfortable environment. When we had the opportunity to secure and develop the land for one of our investment partners, we knew it would be ideal for retailers looking to move into the area,” stated Jeff Baker, CEO, First Companies. “We were able to purchase the land, build the shell, and attract quality tenants, with Verizon and ChowHound hiring us to complete their build-outs. First Companies will also manage the property going forward.”

Subway and ChowHound are currently open for business, with Verizon Wireless planning their grand opening later this month. The building is easily accessed off M-6 on Byron Center Avenue, with plenty of parking available.

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**About First Companies**

First Companies, Inc. offers commercial real estate, construction and property management services in Michigan and surrounding areas. For nearly 50 years, the company has built a reputation for creating exceptional physical spaces where businesses thrive – offering vast expertise from locating and developing land, and facilitating the sale or lease of properties, to all aspects of construction, and providing ongoing property management and maintenance for building owners. First Companies is unique in its cross-disciplinary approach and frequently participates as an investor in new projects, pulling together different investment groups depending on the short- and longer-term needs of the customer. The company is well-known for its ethics, integrity and creative problem solving, with highly-experienced professionals on staff in each business area – all under one roof.

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