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## MD Johnson, Inc. Advises Phil Smart Jr on Sale of Mercedes Benz of Lynnwood to John Halata

SEATTLE, Dec. 12, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- MD Johnson, Inc. announces the completion of the sale of Mercedes Benz of Lynnwood Washington to John Halata. Halata has been Smart's long time operating partner at the dealership and founded the dealership with Smart. The dealership was relocated into its current state of the art "AutoHaus" facility in October of 2010. Smart and Halata established the dealership in Lynnwood in 2005. The dealership will continue to be named Mercedes Benz of Lynnwood, no sales price was disclosed.

Both Smart and Halata are lifetime Mercedes Benz enthusiasts as well as MB retailers. Smart is the son of recently deceased Seattle icon Phil Smart Sr and former owner of Phil Smart Mercedes Benz of Seattle. MD Johnson Inc also represented Smart in the sale of Phil Smart Mercedes Benz in 2011 to Al Monjabez. The Seattle dealership has been relocated to Airport Way. Halata has also spent his entire automotive career with Mercedes, first with Mercedes Benz of Canada and then as Smart's partner in the Lynnwood dealership. Halata will continue in business with his son Stefan Halata at the new Lynnwood location.

Mark Johnson commented that "Phil and John have been friends and partners for years and it was contemplated that someday Phil would leave the business and John would take over. Smart commented that "he was pleased to see John and Stefan take over the company and continue to keep the dealership a family owned business" in North Seattle. Both John and Phil are residents of the community and will continue to live in the area. Phil Smart also added that he was "extremely grateful to Mr. Johnson for his work in designing and executing the sale of Phil Smart Inc in Seattle as well as the transaction to John and Stefan. Family businesses are complex and emotional; no one understands this like Mark Johnson". James Aiken of the Aiken Law Group provided legal services.

Regarding Mercedes Benz dealerships, MD Johnson Inc was similarly involved in assisting the LeJeune family succession of their Mercedes Benz dealership in Minneapolis to the Pohlad family, the Rasmussen family succession of their two Mercedes Benz dealerships in Portland Oregon to Lithia and the Bastin family succession of Mercedes Benz of Palm Beach to Michael Cantanucci, among other succession and goodwill opinion engagements in process.

**MD Johnson, Inc.** is the premier US provider of automotive dealership buy sell, financial advisory and automotive succession services. The firm advises dealers, both public and private on the purchase, sale, analysis, succession and valuation of automobile dealerships, dealership platforms as well as dealership real estate through their wholly owned real estate entity, MDJ Realty Inc. The firm represents clients nationwide supporting their buy sell activities and has advised on more than 2 Billion, 500 Million in transactions.

Available Topic Expert(s): For information on the listed expert(s), click appropriate link.

Mark Johnson

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