

Real Estate Professionals Join Avison Young in Atlanta

June 16, 2011 / Elizabeth Buckley, Commercial Property Analyst

Real estate professionals Tonya Creekmore and Tina Harris have joined the brokerage operations of Avison Young in Atlanta, Avison Young principal and managing director in the region Steve Dils announced.



As a principal at Avison Young, Creekmore is tasked to expand the company's retail management and leasing platform in the United States.

She will focus on business development, asset management and anchor-tenant transactions.

Creekmore was the former vice-president of General Growth Properties for Big Box and Peripheral Land Leasing/Development.

On the other hand, Harris has joined Avison Young as a senior retail leasing representative after operating her own consulting firm. She will focus on in-line mall leasing.

At the same time, Avison Young principal and managing director of the company's Mississauga office, Martin Dockrill, announced that *real estate* industry veteran Richard Haynes has joined the company's brokerage operations in Mississauga.

Commenting on the partnership, Dils said: "Avison Young's powerful retail presence started in Canada but the company continues to add to its retail scale and depth of capabilities in the U.S.

"Tonya's solid knowledge of retail industry trends and her dedication to the business make her the perfect candidate to grow our retail mall property management and leasing capabilities in the U.S. Meanwhile, Tina is very well regarded by retailers and can deliver dynamic leasing capabilities to our clients. Both of these professionals will fit in very well with the top brokers we have hired in Atlanta – and across the company – over the past year."

For the past three years, Creekmore has been securing big-box tenants for development and re-development of regional malls and community centers for General Growth Properties. She will now apply her more than two decades of experience in the commercial real estate industry.

Before that, Creekmore was a partner at North American Properties, developing the Camp Creek MarketPlace, Stonecrest MarketPlace, Coleman MarketPlace and Sodo.

At North American Properties, Creekmore focused on shopping center development, company operations and oversight of the leasing department, as well as managing retailer relationships.

In both capacities, she closed deals with Target, Sam's Club, J.C. Penney, Kohl's, Home Depot, Lowe's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Marshalls/TJ Maxx, Ross, Old Navy, 24 Hour Fitness, Jo-Ann Fabric, and Bed Bath and Beyond, as well as other national anchor, shop and out-parcel retailers.

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For eight years, Creekmore had been with Ben Carter Properties, where she was responsible for leasing retail development projects such as Mall of Georgia Crossing, Columbus Crossing and Conyers Crossing, as well as acting as a leasing liaison between Ben Carter Properties and third-party landlord clients.

Meanwhile, Harris has fifteen years of experience in the real estate sector. At General Growth Properties, she has leased projects such as Coastland, Governor's Square, Northpark, Oglethorpe, Peachtree, Regency Square, Riverchase Galleria, The Esplanade, and The Oaks Mall.

"Given their depth of knowledge and background working with mall owners, Tonya and Tina are significant additions to our rapidly-growing retail practice in the U.S. Their experience in developing and implementing management and leasing strategies will add value to investment properties," said Earl Webb, Avison Young's President, U.S. Operations.

"We are very pleased that Tonya and Tina will be bringing their outstanding track records to Avison Young and helping us grow our national retail presence."

From 11, Avison Young's offices grew in number to 23 over the past two years. From 300, its real estate professionals surged in number to 700 as well across Canada and in the US.



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