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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tower Certifies 3 Million Square Feet Under Fitwel Viral Response Module

The Tower Companies prioritizes occupant health as the first commercial real estate owner and manager to implement the Fitwel Viral Response module across its entire managed portfolio of commercial office and multifamily buildings

Rockville, MD – The Tower Companies (Tower), a Washington, D.C.-based real estate developer and recognized sustainability leader, announced today that it has implemented the Fitwel Viral Response (VR) module across its entire portfolio of commercial office and multifamily properties. After being [among the first to certify its corporate policies](#) under the VR module and the first globally to secure asset-level approval, Tower quickly applied the program across its 3 million-square-foot portfolio.

Fitwel is the world's leading certification system committed to building health for all™. Originally created by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. General Services Administration, Fitwel is a rigorous, third-party healthy building certification system operated by the Center for Active Design (CfAD) that sets the industry standard for evidence-based strategies to promote positive health outcomes for building occupants and communities.

The VR module was intentionally designed to offer property owners the flexibility to establish effective viral mitigation protocols for commercial and residential asset types. Unlike other solutions, Fitwel's VR module has established best practices for companies to follow by setting minimum requirements that are necessary to mitigate viral transmission, while providing turnkey policies to ensure an efficient and consistent approach to guide the industry.

“We applaud The Tower Companies for its leadership in the healthy building movement as one of the first to achieve Fitwel Viral Response approval across its 3 million square-foot portfolio of commercial and residential assets,” said Joanna Frank, President and



CEO of CfAD. “By implementing the module’s strategies and best practices portfolio-wide, Tower has demonstrated its commitment to creating safer environments for occupants and residents that mitigate risk of viral transmission and promote health and wellness throughout.”

The VR module is scored out of 100% with anything over 90% earning a special distinction. Tower scored 91%, which represents 18 unique viral mitigation strategies that enhance indoor environments, encourage behavioral change and build occupant trust. For example, Tower implemented a robust indoor air quality policy that mandates strict preventative maintenance procedures, high-efficiency filters, UVC lighting and indoor air quality monitoring to provide optimal conditions for building occupants. Beyond many operational strategies, Tower also adapted health programming for its clients and residents to encourage healthy living whether they are at home or the office, which includes free weekly virtual fitness classes and other wellness events.

“Our COVID-19 response is like a symphony. Each instrument—in this case, each strategy—plays a crucial role in our layered and robust approach. Whether it’s enhanced operational protocols or UVC lighting, no one measure is sufficient on its own when dealing with airborne viruses and new variants as they arise inside buildings,” said Jeffrey Abramson, partner at The Tower Companies. “At the heart of our response is our genuine care for our tenants’ and employees’ health and wellbeing, and our desire to encourage the industry to meet the needs of today and rise to the expectations of tomorrow. The Fitwel Certification System continues to provide the resources to make this a reality.”

About The Tower Companies

For three generations, the family-owned Tower Companies has maintained a commitment to responsible development and continues to envision a world where buildings inspire and enrich the lives of their occupants and create positive social change. The sustainable building leader owns, develops and manages over 6 million square feet in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area consisting of office buildings, office parks, lifestyle centers, regional malls, eco-progressive live-work-play communities and hotels, with an additional 13 million square feet in the development pipeline. In 2004, The Tower Companies was the first in the United States to achieve LEED® certification at a multi-family community, Blair Towns, and since then, 95 percent of their commercial and multi-family residential properties have achieved LEED® certification and 80 percent are ENERGY STAR® certified. In addition, Tower publicly reports their portfolio’s carbon footprint to The Climate Registry and offsets 100



percent of GHG emissions by supporting renewable energy projects in North America. Through a partnership with the Department of Energy, the Tower Companies pledged to reduce energy and water consumption 20 percent by 2020, then surpassed those targets in 2017. The Tower Companies is an international authority in the industry and has been recognized for its commitment to sustainability and energy independence by numerous national organizations and federal agencies, including the U.S. Green Building Council, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and more. Learn more at www.towercompanies.com.

About Fitwel and the Center for Active Design

Fitwel is the world's leading certification system committed to building health for all®. Generated by expert analysis of 5,600+ academic research studies, Fitwel is implementing a vision for a healthier future where all buildings and communities are enhanced to strengthen health and well-being. Fitwel was originally created by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and U.S. General Services Administration. The CDC remains the research and evaluation partner for Fitwel. The Center for Active Design, a global not-for-profit organization, was selected as the licensed operator of Fitwel, charged with expanding Fitwel to the global market. To learn more about Fitwel, please visit: www.fitwel.org.



UVC 254nm lighting in air handling unit at 1828 L Street NW, Washington, D.C.



Lobby at 1707 L Street NW, Washington, D.C. with new operational protocols and signage to share COVID-19 response initiatives with building occupants.