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### Fuentes Takes Helm as President

With the start of business in 2007, Carlos A. Fuentes (VET Realty, Lutz), assumed his duties as President of the Greater Tampa Association of REALTORS® (GTAR). Fuentes, a native of Puerto Rico and a magna cum laude graduate of the Inter American University, is now president of the largest professional real estate association in the Tampa Bay area.

Fuentes has been involved in commercial real estate for the last 22 years as a corporate real estate manager, operations officer, consultant and REALTOR®. His experience includes activities ranging from land acquisition and development, to office, retail and industrial properties in the United States, Virgin Islands, and Venezuela.

Fuentes, who was installed as GTAR President in December, set several goals for the association in 2007. With a theme of “Think Globally, Act Locally”, Fuentes wants members to realize the many factors that influence the local real estate market.

He hopes to create awareness of emerging markets that include seniors, ethnic groups, single parents, and “baby boomers”, and how best to serve the particular needs of each. He also aims to promote the positive image of REALTORS® while showing the public the benefits of using a REALTOR®. Fuentes also wants to continue the strong education offerings available to members and to closely monitor legislative issue affecting the industry and its consumers.

“Our association, through educational offerings, seminars and printed materials, will continue to provide timely support and information to help members maximize their opportunities,” notes Fuentes.

Mr. Fuentes is an active member of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), Florida Association of REALTORS® (FAR), CCIM Institute, Greater Tampa Association of REALTORS® (GTAR), Florida Gulfcoast Commercial Association of REALTORS®, Tampa Bay International Business Council, National Council of Exchangers and National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals. He presently serves as NAR President’s Liaison to Panama, NAR Regional Coordinator for North America, Central America, and the Caribbean, 2007 NAR and FAR Director and International Operations Committee, 2007 GTAR President, and member of NAR REALTORS® International Speaker Cadre. Mr. Fuentes was honored with the NAR 2003 International Outreach Effort Award and NAR 2006 President’s Liaison Award.

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