

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **TAMPA BAY PARTNERSHIP ELECTS 2008-2009 OFFICERS Excellence in Regionalism Award Presented to ONE BAY**

TAMPA BAY, FL (December 3, 2008) –The Tampa Bay Partnership elected its 2008-2009 officers at its 2008 Annual Meeting and Community Update on Friday, November 21, 2008 at the Sheraton Tampa Riverwalk Hotel. The meeting, attended by over 400 business and community leaders marked the launch of the Partnership's new three-year strategic plan, "A Model for Prosperity", and included an awarding of the Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism.

Elected Chair for 2008-2009 was Steve Mason, President and CEO of BayCare Health System. Jeff Lyash, President and CEO of Progress Energy Florida, was elected Vice Chair and Gary Sasso, President and CEO of Carlton Fields, Secretary/Treasurer for the Partnership.

"Through a lot of hard work over the past year by an engaged group of leaders from across the region, we have built a new three-year strategic plan that focuses on regional prosperity through productive, inclusive and sustainable growth," said Mason. "Through the Model for Prosperity, we will be focusing our efforts on four areas which are critical to the long-term success of our region – Vision, Jobs, Transit and Leadership."

#### **Regional Award Winner Announced**

The annual Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism was presented by outgoing Chair Roy McCraw to the Executive Committee of ONE BAY. ONE BAY is a partnership of private and public leaders, aligned to facilitate a regional visioning process to achieve a sustainable, high-quality Tampa Bay region in the areas of land-use, transportation and the environment.

McCraw cited ONE BAY's focus to ensure that everyone who lives in the Tampa Bay region has the opportunity to participate in shaping the region's future. The ONE BAY Voice It! campaign reached out across the region to a diverse base of residents to get their feedback on how the region should grow. Over 3,400 residents participated by providing opinions and comments on four growth scenarios.

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“One goal of ONE BAY is to ensure that everyone who lives in the Tampa Bay region has the opportunity to participate in shaping the region’s vision and ultimate future,” said McCraw. “We salute the ONE BAY team for developing a truly inclusive process that assures that the end result is something the entire region can rally around.”

The Partnership also celebrated the Tampa Bay Rays with a special recognition for their support of regionalism throughout the 2008 MLB season and their winning the 2008 American League Championship. McCraw emphasized that success for the Rays going forward will require strong support from the business community across the region.

**About Tampa Bay Partnership:**

The Tampa Bay Partnership is the regional organization that brings the communities of Tampa Bay together to accelerate life’s possibilities through advocacy, marketing, research and leadership. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership provides regional economic development for the metro areas of Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Lakeland, and Bradenton/Sarasota/Venice and the counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

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