

NEWS RELEASE

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TAMPA BAY PARTNERSHIP ELECTS 2009-2010 OFFICERS Excellence in Regionalism Award Presented to Jeff Lyash, Progress Energy and TBARTA Board

TAMPA BAY, FL (November 30, 2009) –The Tampa Bay Partnership elected its 2009-2010 officers at its 2009 Annual Meeting and Community Update on Friday, November 20, 2009 at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club. The meeting, attended by over 300 business and community leaders, celebrated the Partnership's 15th anniversary and included an awarding of the Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism.

Elected Chair for 2009-2010 was Gary Sasso, President and CEO of Carlton Fields. John Schueler, President and CEO of Florida Communications Group, was elected Vice Chair and Chuck Sykes, President and CEO of Sykes Enterprises as Secretary/Treasurer for the Partnership.

“Despite challenging times, our leaders are working on many fronts to keep Tampa Bay moving in the right direction,” said Sasso. He added, “We have much work to do. As we move forward, we will continue to build upon our Model for Prosperity, focusing upon the strategic initiatives of Visioning, creating Jobs, expanding Transportation, employing Advocacy, and mobilizing public and private Leadership.”

Regional Award Winner Announced

Outgoing chair Steve Mason presented the annual Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism, Business Leaders Award, to Jeff Lyash, Progress Energy, and the Public Sector Award to the Board of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA).

Mason called Lyash “one of Tampa Bay's most active business leaders” for his involvement in local, regional and statewide organizations and cited his ongoing efforts as chairman of A Baseball Community, the civic group analyzing community support and stadium options for MLB Tampa Bay Rays.

Mason also cited the TBARTA Board for their collaboration and visionary leadership to create and adopt the region's first Transportation Master Plan.

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“Within two short years since the Authority was created by the Legislature, Board members from separate jurisdictions across the region have to come together, looked beyond parochial issues and worked collaboratively to create a true Master Plan to address our region’s critical mobility issues now and into the future,” said Mason.

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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