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**RAGFL Leaders Meet With U.S. Senator Mel Martinez;
Discuss Real Estate and Banking Issues**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - (July 17, 2009) - REALTOR® Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale, Inc. (RAGFL) leaders participated in a roundtable discussion with United States Senator Mel Martinez on Friday to discuss remaining issues and solutions impacting the housing market. RAGFL President Jesse Acevedo, ABR, E-PRO; RAGFL President-elect Brenda Ghibaudi, CRS, PMN; Society of Commercial REALTORS® of Greater Fort Lauderdale (SOCR) President Sonny Maken, CCIM; and SOCR Immediate Past-president Brad Fitzgerald joined other key real estate and banking professionals at the invitation only event.

The roundtable, which took place at the Broward College Higher Education Complex in downtown Fort Lauderdale, provided a valuable opportunity for RAGFL leaders to talk in depth about the housing market with the Florida Senator. Martinez, who is a current member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, is also the former Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

After the Senator gave a brief update on current federal legislation, participants presented dynamic solutions, problems and forecasts. RAGFL leaders focused their dialogue on the increasingly-positive housing indicators such as low mortgage interest rates, increased existing home sales and greater affordable housing opportunities. President Acevedo closed out the discussion by reaffirming the need for an extension of the federal economic stimulus package, specifically the new \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit.

"As one of our region's key voices in Congress, it is imperative that Senator Martinez is kept up-to-date on current conditions of working REALTORS®," stated Acevedo. "South Florida represents a significant share of the state's real estate market. I am pleased RAGFL leaders were able to play an integral role in providing solutions that continue to move us in the right direction."

The REALTOR® Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale, Inc. is one of the largest REALTOR® Associations in Florida, representing more than 8,700 real estate professionals in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties. Additional information can be found at www.R-World.com.

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