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**Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville & Jupiter Announce  
*Florida Riverwalk Exchange***

**-- Three Coastal Cities Team Together with Palm Beach County Town for  
Think-Tank on Optimizing Public/Private Waterfronts --**

Jupiter, Fla. – Three coastal cities in Florida today announced the formation of the **Florida Riverwalk Exchange**, a think tank dedicated to creating and preserving dynamic and economically viable public/private waterfronts. Task forces from Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville are all joining forces to share ideas, challenges and solutions for creating successful “Riverwalks” that serve as the heart of a city’s urban setting. They are joined by the Town of Jupiter in Palm Beach County in their efforts, with Jupiter hosting the launch of the exchange. All of the cities/town are in various stages of Riverwalk planning, development and/or preservation and each is sending representatives for a summit meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Jupiter, during which time each locale will share their experiences, knowledge and plans for the future. The Florida Riverwalk Exchange represents a unique gathering of city and town officials, urban planners, environmental architects, business and cultural leaders, and more, and collectively they hold the keys to creating long-lasting and vibrant waterfronts. Their collective collaboration is anticipated to be unprecedented in real estate development in Florida, and even in the nation.

“We’re each trying to create vibrant Riverwalks that will serve as the center of downtown life for generations to come,” said Ben Wacksman, President of Capital Realty Investors LLC, who is spearheading the collaboration. “We realize that by joining forces, we can share formulas for success. The key is to guide natural market forces focused on waterfronts toward solutions that are in the best interest of the communities.”

Mr. Wacksman is a member of Tampa’s “Friends of the Riverwalk”, that city’s public/private task force dedicated to cultivating the 2.4-mile Riverwalk that will wind its way along downtown Tampa. The goal of the task force is to harmoniously integrate local history and natural scenery with business and residential life, emphasizing an interactive promenade. Tampa’s Riverwalk is 17% complete with a target date of Oct 2010, and a strong focus on getting as much completed as possible by February 2009 when Tampa hosts Super Bowl XLIII. Completed segments already include the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, a hotel and marina, and several parks. Future segments will link the new Tampa Bay History Center, the new Tampa Children’s Museum, Water Works Park, city pier, a residential development, restaurants and shops. More information can be found at [www.tampariverwalk.net](http://www.tampariverwalk.net).

The Town of Jupiter, in northern Palm Beach County, plans a 2.5-mile Riverwalk that will serve as a focal point of that coastal bedroom community. Jupiter will host the April 6<sup>th</sup> summit meeting which will include briefings on past accomplishments and future expectations from representatives of all four Riverwalks. Additional discussions will focus on numerous issues including integrating a Riverwalk into an urban setting; involving local business leadership; balancing residential with service-oriented development; optimizing public spaces; private vs. public funding; ongoing operating budgets; preservation; and more. The summit meeting will also include a walking tour of Jupiter's Riverwalk area.

Jupiter's Riverwalk has been master planned to include an entertainment district, an urban park and access to additional parks, observation areas, docks, fishing opportunities, residences, restaurants and retail, and natural preserved areas. Two phases totaling 2,500 linear feet have been completed: one section features a quiet, natural environment, characterized by lush mangrove trees and wildlife, along with the luxury office building, Riverwalk Center; the second section features the adjacent Jupiter Yacht Club, a \$250-million development including a private/public marina, residences, soon to be completed retail and restaurants, and a future five-star hotel.

Says Mayor Karen Golonka of Jupiter, "We hope that the bigger cities can learn from our small town success. Large or small, we are all looking to create a focal point for our communities, and we all have a lot that we can share."

Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk is one of the most mature of the four city Riverwalks with a one-mile "Riverwalk Park" along the New River. The winding walkway passes Fort Lauderdale's Arts & Entertainment District through lush landscaping past shopping, dining, waterfront parks and major cultural attractions including the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Museum of Discovery and Science, Florida Grand Opera, the Old Fort Lauderdale Museum of History, entertainment and retail at Las Olas Riverfront, the Museum of Art, and historic Stranahan House. The Riverwalk has numerous water taxi stops and a connection to fashionable Las Olas Boulevard shops. A key element of Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk is 24,000 engraved Signature Bricks that line the walkway with personalize messages. More recently, the Riverwalk Park has seen several residential developments approved along the New River.

The Riverwalk, [www.goriverwalk.com](http://www.goriverwalk.com), Trust serves as the catalyst in building and nurturing Fort Lauderdale's "most beautiful mile", an advocacy group made up of private citizens and business and professional volunteers.

"We are continually working on the beautification and enhancement of the Riverwalk Park, so it remains the most vibrant centerpiece of Fort Lauderdale," added Patsy Mennuti, Executive Director of the Riverwalk Trust. "We have a lot

of experience to share with Florida's other key Riverwalks, and we also continue to always look for fresh ideas for our own beautification efforts."

The fourth city joining in on the Florida Riverwalk Exchange, Jacksonville, has a well developed downtown waterfront with a pedestrian promenade that totals 2.5 miles. "The riverfront is the number one asset of Jacksonville," says Terry Lorraine, Executive Director of Downtown Vision, Inc. whose mission is to build and maintain a healthy and vibrant downtown community, [www.downtownjacksonville.org](http://www.downtownjacksonville.org).

Jacksonville's Riverwalk is situated on sections of both sides of the St. John's River, passing many of the city's premier attractions including the Jacksonville Historical Center, Maritime Museum, the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, along with parks, over 5,000 residential units (proposed), hotels, shops, marinas and more. The city anticipates the Riverwalk eventually doubling in length to five miles as development proliferates downtown. With that in mind, Downtown Vision is exploring ways to optimize the riverfront experience to create and preserve an environment that is unique to northeast Florida.

More than twenty representatives are expected at the April 6th summit. The Florida Riverwalk Exchange expects ongoing collaborative efforts between the various Riverwalks for the foreseeable future, along with additional summit meetings going forward.

Press time for the April 6<sup>th</sup> summit is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Jupiter Town Hall, at which time representatives from the Riverwalks will be available to answer questions. Jupiter Town Hall is located on Military Trail just south of Indiantown Road. From I-95 take Exit 87A East (Indiantown Road) to Military Trail. Make a right on Military Trail and Jupiter Town Hall is on the right behind the Jupiter Police station.

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