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Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and Committee of One Hundred Become Independent Organizations

Tampa, Fla.- Today the leadership of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and its economic development arm, the Committee of One Hundred, announced that they are becoming independent corporate entities. The Committee of One Hundred is now the Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation, which will be funded and operated autonomously from the Chamber.

The Tampa Hillsborough EDC will focus on its traditional role of job creation, with emphasis on business retention, recruiting new companies and growing business sectors such as life sciences, international trade and financial services. The Chamber will maintain its role as Tampa Bay's leading business organization and continue to serve its members and enhance the community by building business success.

“Operating as two separate entities will allow each organization to function at its highest level,” said Henry Gonzalez, III, chair of the Chamber. “It will provide the Chamber with greater autonomy and a stronger voice on public policy issues, and we will continue to focus on workforce development, small business, and leadership programs to strengthen the economic prosperity of Hillsborough County.”

“We believe this is the best of both worlds,” said Mark House, chairman of the new corporation. “Our work will be highly focused. We will serve both public and private sector investors who want their funding aimed specifically at competing for jobs in a global economy and selecting sites for target industries within Hillsborough County. Our work tends to be executed by a professional staff that assists companies and their consultants through the site selection process. We also partner with the public sector to bring federal, state and local incentives to the table in a highly competitive process. It’s less volunteer-driven than the chamber and almost entirely client-driven.”

The new Tampa Hillsborough EDC will be launched with projected revenues in excess of \$1.3 million, including \$288,000 from the City of Tampa, \$450,000 from Hillsborough County and funding from approximately 100 private companies. The timing of the restructuring was tied to new budget years of the two local governments.

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