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Engel & Voelkers Franchise Set for Tampa's Hyde Park Village

Tampa, FL (July 10, 2007) – A former retail space overlooking the centerpiece fountain at Hyde Park Village will be converted into an upscale real estate property shop that will operate as the Tampa Bay area's first franchise of Engel & Voelkers Florida.

A contract for the 1,800-square-foot site has been finalized between Michal J. Winiarek and the retail, restaurant and residential complex located within the historic Hyde Park neighborhood. Once renovations are complete, the property shop will specialize in sales and rentals of local and international high end real estate.

Winiarek, a licensed Florida REALTOR® and broker, is a longtime Tampa resident who received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of South Florida. His career in real estate follows in his family's footsteps. Winiarek's grandfather and parents invested in real estate and his mother is a real estate agent. In addition to owning the Engel & Voelkers franchise, Winiarek and his wife own several investment properties.

Representatives of Tampa's rojo Architecture are currently developing plans to convert the space into a real estate shop that conforms to the signature look and boutique-style of Engel & Voelkers Group affiliate offices worldwide. Sites are customized to create a comfortable atmosphere for buyers to browse real estate listings from around the globe as well as for sellers to list properties with experienced, professional realtors. rojo Architecture is a regional firm that provides full service architecture and interior design for high end commercial and residential projects. Their team will work with Winiarek through opening day.

Engel & Voelkers Florida, a highly respected name in upscale international real estate, recently opened its first Florida-based franchise location - and 300th shop worldwide - June 29 in Punta Gorda.

Engel & Voelkers Group's growing portfolio of global locations includes South Hampton, England, Ireland, Italy, Chile, Spain, Switzerland, South Africa and more. The Hamburg, Germany-based Engel & Voelkers Group represents a worldwide brand with hundreds of locations in 26 countries and five continents. A new Engel & Voelkers property shop opens somewhere in the world every 100 hours.

Additional Engel & Voelkers property shops planned for Florida include Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Fort Lauderdale, Sarasota, Miami Beach, Boca Raton, Celebration, Coral Gables and more.

Franchisees are immediately aligned with an upscale brand that is prominent throughout major cities and distinguishes itself with highly personalized service. Specially designed training and sales systems, access to a prestigious international property market that

offers 24/7 contact worldwide and a standardized “service concept” help to define and differentiate this prestigious real estate company.

For information about the Hyde Park franchise, contact Winiarek at (813) 787-0361. Email inquiries may be sent to michal.winiarek@engelvoelkers.com.

For information about franchise opportunities, contact Maddy Krasne at (813) 322-0128, (813) 785-4360, email Maddy.Krasne@engelvoelkers.com or go to www.engelvoelkers.com/florida.

The Engel & Völkers Group

The Engel & Völkers Group was established more than 20 years ago in the western suburbs of Hamburg, Germany as a purely residential estate agency. Today the Engel & Völkers Group has achieved a leading position in the European market and a prominent position in the global luxury real estate market.

Engel & Völkers provides real estate brokerage services for both buyers and sellers, focusing on upscale residential and commercial properties in top locations worldwide. Its proprietary buyer and seller system offers advanced technology that connects property shops throughout the world. Extensive training and support is provided for all franchises.

Engel & Völkers Group also publishes its own lifestyle and real estate magazine, known as Grund Genug in Europe and GG in English-speaking countries. It focuses on luxury living, exclusive destinations and famous artists, designers and business leaders plus features magnificent Engel & Völkers properties from around the world.

Engel & Voelkers Florida serves as the master franchise headquarters for Florida, providing statewide support. Franchisees are served from its Naples, FL office, to offer them all of the necessary tools and services they require to develop, manage and grow successful real estate agencies within a clearly defined sub-market.

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