



GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS
ELECTS CARLOS A. SANCHEZ VICE PRESIDENT OF HOUSING**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, November 7, 2005--The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) has elected Grand Rapids Housing Commission Executive Director Carlos A. Sanchez to serve a two-year term as Vice President of Housing. As Vice President of Housing, Sanchez chairs NAHRO's Housing Committee and also serves on the Board of Governors, the organization's governing and policy-making body.

The NAHRO Housing Committee addresses a broad range of issues related to housing families and individuals of low and moderate income, including legislative, regulatory and funding issues for public housing and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, among others. The committee recommends actions and policies to NAHRO's Board of Governors to further the goal of providing adequate and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families.

Sanchez was appointed to this position by NAHRO's national leadership because of his history of service to the Greater Grand Rapids community. Sanchez has served as the Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Housing Commission since 1983. During his tenure, the Housing Commission has expanded both the number and scope of its programs and services, increasing the number of affordable-housing units available to local low-income households from 1,000 to 3,580. The agency's annual budget has grown from \$3.8 million in 1983 to \$25.3 million in fiscal year 2006, with an additional \$10 million in development.

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“The programs and policies we strive to bring to the attention of the nation help millions of people,” said NAHRO President Don Cameron. “Carlos Sanchez will be invaluable to these efforts, because of his first-hand knowledge and experience. He will be critical in helping NAHRO achieve its goals: expanded resources for affordable housing and revitalized communities and neighborhoods.”

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Background on NAHRO: Established in 1933, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is the nation’s oldest professional membership organization that advocates for affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans, particularly those with low and moderate incomes. The association represents more than 21,000 housing and community development organizations and officials. NAHRO members predominately administer Public Housing, Section 8, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. Member agencies provide housing for more than 7.5 million low-income people, bring more than \$1.2 billion in CDBG and HOME funding to their communities, and serve more than 152 million individuals.

Background on the Grand Rapids Housing Commission: The Grand Rapids Housing Commission was established by the Grand Rapids City Commission in 1966 as a public-body corporation under the state enabling law now known as Public Act 18. The law empowers the City to act to provide housing for low-income people and to eliminate substandard housing conditions.

Funded primarily through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission is an independently administered entity governed by a five-member board appointed by the City Commission. The Housing Commission currently makes affordable housing available to 3,580 West Michigan families through a diverse portfolio of housing programs.