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**Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce to Honor 9 City of Miami Beach First Responders at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heroes Breakfast Presented by Kurz Real Estate**

**MIAMI BEACH, FL (January 27, 2017)** --- The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) will honor first responders at its **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heroes Pillar Breakfast Presented by Kurz Real Estate** at the Ritz-Carlton South Beach on **Friday, February 10th**. At an anticipated sold out event with local community leaders in attendance, the Chamber will continue their tradition of recognizing the accomplishments of outstanding individuals doing brave work in the community. This is the first year that Kurz Real Estate will be the official title sponsor of the event, which is one of the Chamber's 5 signature events of the year. A presenting sponsor of the event is Alterra Home Loans.

As a former Marine and son of a teacher, President & CEO of Kurz Real Estate David Adam Kurz has made it a company mission to make life easier for our "Hometown Heroes." The company started a Hometown Heroes Appreciation Program, aimed at teachers, veterans, police and fire Rescue/EMT personnel, with an objective of giving back funds toward the closing costs of a home in the form of a credit. Additionally, Hometown Heroes that sign on as Kurz agents receive the best commission split.

"On behalf of the Pillar Trustees of the Chamber, I'm extremely honored to recognize the accomplishments of these nine heroic Miami Beach first responders," said Pillar Board Chair and Principal of Borges + Associates Architects Reinaldo Borges. "As an architect, I often speak about Miami Beach's resiliency and these brave heroes encompass the very definition of resilience in their day-to-day work."

"As the son of a teacher, United States Marine and Anti Terrorism liaison to the Naval Seabees and LAPD, I feel it my duty to give back to a part of the community that gives back to us every day," said Kurz. "Our program is designed to ensure our Heroes find their way into homeownership. We also help our Heroes by offering educational classes at their work locations about homeownership. It's important we help in any way we can. This is our way. We are so proud to be a title sponsor for what we consider to be the most important event of the year and we intend to remain the title sponsor for many years to come."

The Chamber will recognize City of Miami Beach Police Officers, Firefighters, and Ocean Rescue First Responders. Chamber Pillar Board Chair, Reinaldo Borges, along with the City of Miami Beach Emergency Management Head Chuck Tear, Police Chief Dan Oates and Fire/Ocean Rescue Chief Virgil Fernandez will present the awards to the following first responders:

- Jose Reina (Sergeant)
- Jack Rodriguez (Sergeant)
- Alan Chin (Officer)
- Luis Alsina (Officer)
- Lucas Bocanegra (Lifeguard)
- Ludovico Basso (Lifeguard)

- Digna Abello (Division Chief)
- Mike Saavedra (Firefighter)
- Amy Rosen (911 Dispatcher)

The honorees are sponsored by a leading business or organization in the community:

- Alterra Home Loans
- Atlantic Broadband
- AT&T
- East of Collins
- Hotwire Communications
- Kurz Real Estate
- Mango's Tropical Café
- Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors
- Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce Pillar Board
- William and Johanna Beach

Each honoree will receive gifts from the following sponsor organizations:

- Mango's Tropical Café
- Miami Children's Museum
- Boucher Brothers
- Miami Beach Cosmetic & Plastic Surgery
- Miami FC
- Miami Beach Family & Sports Chiropractic

The event is open to the public and can be purchased by calling the Chamber at 305-674-1300.

#### **About Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce**

The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1921 to promote the economic well-being of Miami Beach's citizens, to improve the quality of life for the entire community and to communicate the view of the business community on major issues of public policy.

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