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Mayor Fabrizi Announces DOLLAR WISE Campaign *Wachovia Bank to conduct financial literacy programs in Bridgeport*

Bridgeport, Conn. – September 27, 2005 – Mayors across the country will celebrate “DOLLAR WISE” week from September 26-October 1, 2005 to promote the Mayors’ National *DOLLAR WISE Campaign: Financial Education for America*, established through The United States Conference of Mayors’ Council for the New American City. Mayor John M. Fabrizi and his fellow mayors recognize that financial illiteracy is a national problem that needs to be addressed and have established the “DOLLAR WISE” campaign to educate citizens about personal and household financial literacy.

“The most important investors in American cities are families and individuals,” said Mayor Fabrizi. “There is no better time than now for Bridgeport residents to take advantage of programs geared toward financial management and prosperity. There is no question that improved financial literacy will result in a higher standard of living and more stable communities in our City.”

Mayor Fabrizi, together with Wachovia Bank, is committed to providing a variety of personal finance seminars and events throughout the coming year as part of the “DOLLAR WISE” campaign. The programs currently scheduled as part of the DOLLAR WISE campaign are:

- **Tuesday, October 4, 2005 Financial Literacy for Women in Business**
- **Thursday, October 6, 2005 Wealth Building Through Homeownership**

All programs are free of charge and open to the public. Both one-hour seminars begin at 6:30 P.M. and take place at City Hall Annex, 999 Broad Street, 1st Floor Conference Room A, Bridgeport.

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September 27, 2005

Page 2 of 2

“Becoming financially literate is a long-term process that, for many people, requires assistance from institutions outside the home,” said Mina Minelli, vice president of community relations, Wachovia Bank. “By joining with the mayor’s office, Wachovia Bank can help consumers make informed choices about their finances.”

In addition to partnering with the City on the DOLLAR WISE campaign, Wachovia Bank is lending \$16 million to the \$30 million historic restoration of the City Trust block in downtown Bridgeport. Once completed, the development will include 118 apartments, 30,000 square feet of retail space, and two floors of office space.

“This is the first major investment by an out of state national bank in Bridgeport, a definite sign that the financial community is gaining confidence in Bridgeport,” stated Fabrizi.

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