

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**For the Atlanta Development Authority****Contact:** Sonya Moste, Director of Marketing and Public Relations**Phone:** 404.614.8281**E-mail:** smoste@atlantada.com**For the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City****Contact:** Deirdre M. Coyle, Jr., Director of Communications & Marketing**Phone:** 617.292.2646**E-mail:** dcoyle@icic.org**TWO ATLANTA INNER CITY COMPANIES MAKE ICIC'S INNER CITY 100 LIST*****THE INTEGRAL GROUP, JLW HOMES ON
NATIONAL INNER CITY BUSINESS INDEX***

Boston, MA, May 3, 2007 – Today, ICIC and Inc. Magazine announced the 2007 Inner City 100 winners. Two of the fastest growing inner-city companies in America call Atlanta home - JLW Homes and the Integral Group.

Now in its ninth year, the list provides unmatched original data on the fastest growing inner-city businesses in the U.S. The data comes from the Inner City 100, a ranking created by the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) and Inc. Magazine of the 100 fastest-growing businesses in inner city areas around the country.

For the 2007 list, over 4,500 new nominations were received. The 2007 Inner City 100 winners grew at a compound annual growth rate of 49 percent and an average rate of 535 percent between 2001 and 2005. Collectively, the top 100 inner city businesses have employed nearly 19,000 people and created 12,000 new jobs over the past five years; both of these figures are the highest in the program's history and show signs of continued growth in America's inner cities.

JLW Homes, led by CEO Komichel Johnson, ranked # 14 on the list, was recognized for achieving a 5-year standard growth rate of a whopping 891% with 2005 revenues of

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\$19.6 million. JLW's focus has been attracting new residents into Atlanta's urban communities. "We are building new single-family homes in communities that have been overlooked by other developers," says Johnson. Washington Park, a JLW project that was Atlanta's first planned black community, was built around the City's first desegregated park. It was recently voted one of the 20 best places to live in Atlanta.

The Integral Group, led by CEO Egbert Perry, ranked # 98, was recognized for achieving a 5-year standard growth rate of 116%. This real estate development and investment firm aims to revitalize urban communities, recorded almost \$55 million in revenue for 2005. They have 275 employees and are active in ten major US cities. The Integral Group is currently involved in Renaissance Walk, 158-unit condominium with street level retail in the historic Auburn Avenue corridor just east of downtown Atlanta.

The 2007 Inner City 100 winners attended the Inner City 100 Summit in Boston for a two-day event in early May featuring seminars for Inner City 100 owners and managers at Harvard Business School, a reception at the Samuel Adams Brewery located in Boston's inner city, and a gala awards dinner at the Westin Copley Hotel that drew more than 1,000 guests. Mayor Franklin was honored with the Mayoral Inner City Economic Award and also participated in a roundtable discussion with the mayors from Boston, Cincinnati and Providence about attracting more retail to America's inner cities. Other business leaders who participated in the roundtable discussion were executives from Staples, Chili's Restaurants, Starbucks, General Growth and JP Morgan Chase.

Highlights of the 2007 Inner City 100 list include:

- Inner City 100 companies are 40 percent minority-owned, compared with just 11 percent nationally.
- The 2007 Inner City 100 companies are 14 percent owned by immigrants to the United States.
- Twenty-one percent of the 2007 Inner City 100 are women-owned, the highest representation of women on the list to date. Nationally, only 3 percent of companies with over \$1 million in annual revenues are women-owned.
- The 2007 Inner City 100 boasts an average workforce that is 44 percent minority.
- The 2007 Inner City 100 pay an average of over \$15.00 per hour to hourly employees and \$48,000 per year to salaried employees.
- The 2007 Inner City 100 employ inner city residents who held 31 percent of all Inner City 100 jobs. According to ICIC's State of the Inner City Economies project, just 23 percent of all inner city jobs nationwide are held by inner-city residents.

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The Inner City 100 list can be found on www.icic.org.

Editor's note:

The Inner City 100 winners are based in 56 cities. Inner City 100 companies were selected from a pool of over 4,500 nominations. Criteria for the award include having at least 51 percent of operations located in economically distressed urban areas; having sales of at least \$200,000 in 2001 and at least \$1 million in 2005 for the 2007 list. Average annual sales for the 100 companies in 2005 was in excess of \$39 million. Collectively, sales totaled more than \$3.9 billion.

About Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) is a national not-for-profit organization founded in 1994 by Harvard Business School professor Michael E. Porter. ICIC's mission is to promote economic prosperity in America's inner cities through private sector engagement that leads to jobs, income and wealth creation for local residents. ICIC brings together business and civic leaders to drive innovation and action, transform thinking and accelerate inner city business growth and investment.

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