

For Immediate Release

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Republic Bank of Chicago Partners with Nationwide Exchange Services to Offer 1031 Tax-Deferred Exchange Products.

Chicago, IL – December 4, 2006 – Nationwide Exchange Services (NES), a Qualified Intermediary, announced today that they are the preferred partner in the handling of Republic Bank of Chicago's 1031 tax-deferred exchange business. Republic Bank of Chicago provides a wide range of banking services to real estate professionals, commercial entities and consumer households throughout the greater Chicagoland area. The bank prides itself in its ability to provide a customized approach to meeting its clients' and prospects' financial needs, especially in the competitive commercial real estate market.

NES is a Qualified Intermediary providing an industry-leading set of 1031 tax-deferred exchange products for individual investors through major US corporations. With sophisticated business processes and controls that meet the requirements of the banking industry, NES provides Republic Bank of Chicago an extensive set of 1031 tax-deferred exchange products at the highest level of customer service with minimal start-up costs and with full regulatory compliance. Republic Bank of Chicago will also have access to a variety of marketing resources provided by NES.

"As a preferred partner, Republic Bank of Chicago can offer their clients a set of customer-driven 1031 tax-deferred exchange products that will help them defer capital gains taxes, while delivering a direct benefit to the bank in the form of core deposits and added revenue. In addition, NES provides the bank with improved flexibility, the 1031 industry's most competitive fee structure,

security of assets, audited processes, 24/7 account visibility and full regulatory compliance,” stated Scott Nathanson, Senior Vice President, Central US Operations at Nationwide Exchange Services.

“The relationship between Nationwide Exchange Services and Republic Bank will be an excellent one. Our clients and prospects are continually looking for ways to improve their businesses, and they are looking for assistance to ensure long-term success. The organizational reputation of NES, the exceptional services and the organizational expertise provided by their very qualified staff will improve our bank’s relationship with our clients and augment the overall performance of our bank. We are very excited about this opportunity,” stated Jim Adkins, President, Republic Bank.

Michael Halloran, President of Nationwide Exchange Services, commented, “As the 1031 market continues to grow nationally, there is a substantial need for new standards of service, security and compliance to ensure that risks are minimized for individual investors, corporations, financial institutions and referring sources of 1031 transactions. NES satisfies this need with the broadest complement of 1031 exchange solutions delivered with the highest levels of security, voluntary compliance with regulations applied to financial service market sectors, and transaction transparency for exchange customers large and small.”

About Republic Bank of Chicago

Republic Bank of Chicago is a \$750 million full-service community bank headquartered in Darien, Illinois. Republic Bank of Chicago was founded in 1964 on Chicago’s southwest side, near Midway Airport. Republic Bank has 10 full-service branches located in the cities of Chicago, Darien, Hodgkins, Naperville, Oak Brook, Orland Park and Palos Park. To learn more about Republic Bank of Chicago and for locations and hours of operation for any of the bank’s branches, please visit www.republicbank.com.

About Nationwide Exchange Services

Nationwide Exchange Services (NES – www.nationwide1031.com) is a leading Qualified Intermediary for 1031 tax-deferred exchanges. Since 1990, NES has conducted tens of thousands of successful 1031 exchange transactions across the nation. Today, NES applies advanced technologies to proven business processes to create new standards of customer-driven products and services for 1031 tax-deferred exchanges. NES has been awarded a SAS 70 Type II certification after an extensive audit of its processes and controls and, as a result, is uniquely qualified to serve the needs of companies that must comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.