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Nationally Recognized Tampa Firm Helps Homeowners & Businesses Become Whole After a Loss

On November 3, 2011, in <u>Insurance</u>, by Press Release 0

Altieri's public adjusters secure best possible settlement for commercial & residential property insurance policyholders

TAMPA, FL (November 2011) – For many homeowners and business owners in the greater Tampa community, the damage caused by a fire, hurricane or flood is just the beginning of their nightmare. The real difficulties begin when they contact their insurance company and try to recover their losses. The insurance forms, technical jargon and contractual loopholes can be challenging to navigate, especially when the <u>policyholder</u> is also trying to maintain family, work and daily life. But policyholders don't have to deal with <u>insurance companies</u> by themselves. For more than 100 years, professionals called public adjusters have served as independent advocates for the rights of policyholders, and in Tampa, one firm is nationally recognized as a leader in the field: Altieri Transco American Claims.

"We serve as advocates for homeowners, business owners and property managers after they've suffered a loss, and that's extremely rewarding," said Raymond A. Altieri, Jr., CPPA, President and Founder of the Ybor City-based Altieri Transco American Claims, and current President of the National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters (NAPIA). "We meet our clients on what is often the worst day of their lives, but we can quickly help them recover. We take on the often cumbersome and confusing insurance claims process, assessing the loss, preparing the claim, and then fighting for a fair settlement that enables our clients to become whole again."

Altieri has represented home and business owners in some of the most devastating and memorable disasters in Tampa Bay's recent history including various fires in St. Petersburg at Crabby Bills, Silas

Steakhouse and Bayside Bar, and Norman's Liquor, and they've helped many of the businesses devastated by the fires at John's Pass and in Ybor City. Altieri's work extends to businesses and homeowners who experience losses due to hurricanes, as well. The firm provided significant assistance to those in Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda after Hurricane Charley and to those in Vero Beach after Hurricane Jeanne.

Over the years, Altieri has helped clients collect insurance settlements worth significantly more than the insurance companies' initial offers, and the value of the negotiated settlements pay for the firm's fees several times over. In fact, according to a January 2010 report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), policyholders with non-catastrophe claims received settlements worth 574% more on average than the settlements received by those policyholders who did not work with public adjusters.

"We've had clients cry, jump up and down, and even start praying in gratitude when we present them with the final settlement," said Altieri, who founded his company in Tampa nearly 25 years ago. "They can't believe that the <u>insurance company</u> is willing to pay them what they are due, and we're so gratified to be able to deliver that news to our clients." As the founding member and past President of the Florida Association of Public Insurance Adjusters, Altieri regularly meets with state lawmakers in Tallahassee to provide the consumer's perspective on changing insurance legislation and regulations. The company is also dedicated to informing consumers about the steps they can take to protect their homes and businesses from a loss, and what actions policyholders need to take after a fire or disaster to protect their property and their claim. This information and other useful tips can be found on their website, <u>www.TranscoAmericanClaims.com</u> or on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AltieriTranscoAmericanClaims

About Altieri Transco American Claims

Altieri Transco American Claims is a Tampa-based public adjuster firm dedicated to securing the best possible settlement for commercial and residential property insurance policyholders after they've suffered a loss. For nearly 25 years, this family-owned business has served as an advocate for homeowners, business owners and property managers by taking on the often cumbersome and confusing insurance claims process. Altieri's team of licensed public adjusters and loss consultants assess the loss, prepare the claim, and fight for a fair settlement that enables their clients to become whole again after a fire, hurricane, storm, flood or other disaster damages or destroys their homes or business properties. The Altieri family is widely regarded as a trusted leader in the public adjuster field, both at home in Tampa and at the state and national level. The company's founder, Ray Altieri, Jr., is the current President of the National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters (NAPIA), and the founding President of the Florida Association of Public Insurance Adjusters (FAPIA). Altieri founded Florida Association of Public Insurance Adjusters (FAPIA) in 1993 and was president for a second term in 2001. To this date the FAPIA has approximately 500 members statewide. Altieri regularly consults with lawmakers in Tallahassee, FL, to provide the consumer's prospective on changing insurance laws and regulations. He has been a featured speaker before a wide number of Florida trade associations in such industries as apartment managers, hotel and motel professionals, and the restaurant industry.