



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Mindy Valone/Heather Wilson
Regan Communications
617.488.2865/617.488.2838
mvalone@regancomm.com
hwilson@regancomm.com

**Lawrence Company and Government Officials Announce
Groundbreaking Citizenship Initiative Program**

Lupoli Companies to offer new Citizenship Initiative pilot program for employees

(LAWRENCE, MA) April 7, 2008 - **Sal Lupoli** of the Lupoli Companies along with **Mayor Michael Sullivan**, Citizen's Bank CEO **Larry Fish**, and **Joe Bevilacqua** of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce announced today a new Citizenship Initiative Pilot program for the City of Lawrence. The program will provide Green Card holding employees with free legal guidance, and and educational assistance. The Leadership and Literacy Foundation will be providing citizenship training and language skills development to aid the employees in pre-qualifying for U.S. citizenship. Ten employees of Lupoli Companies have been selected as the first to benefit from the Pilot program.

The initiative, estimated at \$10,000, is being fully funded by the Lupoli Companies as well as the City of Lawrence and The Fish Foundation. Area non-profits such as The Leadership & Literacy Foundation and Irish Immigration Center will offer additional assistance.

"We are prepared for whatever the cost," said Lupoli during today's press conference. "Our goal is to fully follow through for these 10 individuals."

Employees enrolled in the program are required to be a lawful permanent resident, have a stable employment record, and a commitment to completely the program. In turn, employers are required to make financial contributions and actively reach out to employees who meet the criteria.

All involved members believe that the Lawrence Citizenship Initiative will serve as a 'one-stop shop' process to full citizenship for the benefit of employees and employers alike in the City of Lawrence. Susan Leger Ferraro, from The Leadership and Literacy Foundation, answered the question of sustainability by stating, "We need to create partnerships of business, public, and private. This is an issue that needs true unity to be solved." Members hope this program will ultimately serve as a national model.

About Lupoli Companies:

Sal Lupoli, President/CEO of The Lupoli Companies, launched his business career in 1990, when he and his brother Nick opened the first Sal's Pizza restaurant in Salem, New Hampshire. Today, **The Lupoli Companies** is a multi-million dollar company that encompasses everything from real estate development and investing, to restaurant franchising and wholesale distribution.

Today Sal's Pizza and Salvatore's Restaurants employs thousands of dedicated team members and makes over 40,000 pizzas a week.

About The Leadership & Literacy Foundation: The Leadership & Literacy Foundation was established in 1998 by a group of educators whose goal is to make a difference in the lives of children, adults, the community and the workplace through literacy, effective communication and leadership skills. The Foundation provides a wide array of services to the community that includes education and training, workplace education and community based leadership and literacy initiatives.

###