**NEWS**

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**Stronach Taps Former Florida Political Leader to Help Lead Domestic Programs & Initiatives**

*Former Florida Senate President Haridopolos will help grow agricultural and economic development programs in Florida and throughout the country*

**Dateline –** Former Senate president Mike Haridopolos has been tapped by auto parts magnate Frank Stronach to help lead Stronach’s growing domestic businesses including one of Florida’s leading timber and cattle operations. Haridopolos will take the helm as executive vice president of the Stronach Group.

Haridopolos will help head up Stronach’s domestic and international business and philanthropic initiatives including helping Stronach pioneer his grass-fed beef initiative located in Ft. McCoy, Florida. In Florida over the past decade, Stronach has invested nearly a billion dollars in various sundry enterprises ranging from his multi-use entertainment complex, the Village at Gulfstream Park, to the more than 65,000 acres in agriculture lands currently in various stages of agriculture use and development.

“Our investment in Florida has been consistent and strong,” Stronach said. “I have observed Mike’s career over the last decade, and he has a record of dedication and commitment to very same economic principles that have made me successful.”

“We want to continue our investment in Florida with the strongest possible team to ensure we are securing the right opportunities to grow and develop new businesses that will help create quality sustainable jobs in this state,” Stronach added.

“I’m honored to have an opportunity to work alongside one of the world’s greatest business leaders,” Haridopolos said. “This opportunity to help the Stronach family grow their philanthropic endeavors and investments around the world as well as in my home state is a dream opportunity for me to be able to work with someone who for decades has demonstrated success in business using economic principles on which I have taught and applied throughout my political career.”

Haridopolos, a college instructor beginning his 20th year of teaching, served as President of the Florida Senate from 2011-2012. A state Senator representing Florida’s 26th district, Haridopolos served in the Florida Senate from 2003-2012 and represented 500,000 residents from parts of Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Osceola Counties in Eastern Florida. Haridopolos was also a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 2001 through 2003.

Upon leaving the Florida Senate as a result of term limits, Haridopolos returned to a teaching position at the University of Florida where he will continue his career as an educator.

Haridopolos’ political resume and success also made him an appealing choice for Stronach, as the businessman has begun his own foray into politics, becoming one of Austria’s newest political leaders with the formation of a new political party Team Stronach and a bid to be the country’s next chancellor.

The founder of the world’s leading auto parts supplier and manufacturer, Magna International, Frank Stronach also owns one of the world’s largest, entertainment, racing, and wagering groups in the world, claiming ownership of some of North America’s premier thoroughbred racing facilities, Gulfstream Park, Santa Anita, Golden Gate Fields and the Maryland Jockey Club as well as the finest horse training facility in North America, Palm Meadows in Boyton Beach, Florida. He is widely recognized as one of the world’s leading owners and breeders of thoroughbred race horses with farms in Florida, Kentucky and Canada. His life and economic philosophies were recently chronicled in his autobiography, *The Magna Man,* published by Harper Collins and release at the end of 2012.

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