

TAMPA BAY Business Journal

Saturday, February 19, 2005

Trump in Tampa: Wants to break ground 'in weeks'

Tampa Bay Business Journal - by Alicia Madlitz

The 192-unit Trump Tower Tampa is nearly sold-out with reservations on the reservations, developer and now reality-TV star Donald J. Trump told the Bay-area media Friday.

That means the plan is to break ground "in weeks," he said.

"We're looking to start by April or May."

Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio introduced Trump to the Bay-area media as "Tampa's newest investor."

In a suit with a dark purple silk tie, Trump was flanked by his wife Melania Knauss and a half-dozen of his local partners, Tampa Bay-area developers SimDag-RoBEL, LLC. After the press conference, Trump was scheduled to appear at a party designed to "open" a sales center for the more than 98 percent sold-out project.

Trump said decided to build his \$220 million luxury condominium in Tampa because of three things: his long friendship with **New York Yankees** owner George Steinbrenner; the strength of his partners on the deal and because he likes Tampa's vibrancy, he said.

Trump would not get specific about the financing of the project or the details of his equity stake, except to say it was "less than 50 percent."

Often, he owns 100 percent of his projects and usually between 50 percent and 100 percent, he said.

"I would like to buy more of a stake but I don't think my partners would let me," he joked.

The building will have 192 condominiums and penthouse from 1,091 square feet to 6,150 square feet and priced from \$700,000 to more than \$5.5 million. The tower is slated to be a potential building on the Gulf of Mexico.

The project is located along the Hillsborough River on a parcel adjacent to Tampa's financial and cultural districts.

From his days developing luxury condos at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach to his numerous slam-dunk developments in Fort Lauderdale and Miami, Florida has brought Trump success, he said.

"I come here almost every week," he said.

Trump is likely to be a resident at the new building, he said.

With this building sold, Trump said he would be open to building another once you build the biggest building with the best view, "it's tough to get excited."

"My primary focus is to make this one a great success," he said.

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc.

<http://tampabay.bizjournals.com/tam>

TAMPA BAY Business Journal

Trump said decided to build his \$220 million luxury condominium in Tampa because of three things: his long friendship with **New York Yankees** owner George Steinbrenner; the strength of his partners on the deal and because he likes Tampa's vibrancy, he said.

Trump would not get specific about the financing of the project or the details of his equity stake, except to say it was "less than 50 percent."

Often, he owns 100 percent of his projects and usually between 50 percent and 100 percent, he said.

"I would like to buy more of a stake but I don't think my partners would let me," he joked.