

Tampa Bay Business Journal - December 15, 2009
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TAMPA BAY Business Journal

Thursday, December 15, 2009

Trump tells Turner, 'You're hired!'

Tampa Bay Business Journal

The man behind "The Apprentice" has finally made a decision regarding the general contractor for his new 52-story condominium tower in downtown Tampa.

Turner Construction Co. was named Thursday to build **Trump Tower Tampa** nearly a year after Donald Trump announced the project to develop the \$270-million project on a 1.5-acre site along the Hillsborough River at the south end of Ashley Drive. The *Tampa Bay Business Journal* reported in October that **Turner would win the contract.**

Trump, who made the announcement the same day that NBC will telecast this season's "Apprentice" finale, cited Turner's proven track record of building high-rise developments in Florida as the reason for selecting the Dallas-based company.

"Selecting the right general contractor for a Trump project, one that will also be the tallest residential building on the Gulf of Mexico and a signature property in its market, demands the very best talent for this massive responsibility," Trump stated in a media release.

Kevin G. Turner's business development manager in Tampa, said the company plans to hire 92 percent of its subcontractors from the Tampa area. "We understand the magnitude of this project and the impact it will have on the city of Tampa and the downtown area," Glenn said.

Trump and Turner's development partner, **SimDag LLC**, plan to begin construction of Trump Tower Tampa once construction of a new sea wall and other infrastructure work is completed in the next few months. They estimate that the 190-unit condo tower will be finished by late 2008.

Trump Tower Tampa will feature ultra-luxury condos and penthouse residences ranging from 1,991 to 6,150 square feet, and priced between \$700,000 and \$1.5 million. Trump formally introduced the project during a Feb. 18 press conference and reception at the construction site.

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