City Issues RFP for Prime West Tampa Site

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Globe St. By **John Jordan** February 22, 2019 at 04:30 AM



A map of the West Tampa site subject to the city's RFP. Source: City of Tampa, FL

TAMPA, FL—The City of Tampa has released a request for proposals for the sale of 18 acres of city-owned land that is part of its West River redevelopment project.

The city is seeking a qualified buyer for the site located immediately west of the Hillsborough River, south of Columbus Drive and north of Spruce Street.

"Three years in the making, these parcels are a blank canvas and will be transformative for the west side of the River," says Tampa mayor Bob Buckhorn. "Completing the ongoing

redevelopment of the former public housing site, the developers will be able to provide mixed use, residential, office and or hospitality and retail development on the sites but they will do so in a neighborhood that has provided Tampa with its diversity and rich history for decades."

The city in releasing the RFP is hopeful that the sale of the 18 acres will result in the development of mixed-use, residential or office and or hospitality and retail development on the site.

The RFP states that responsive proposals should demonstrate: successful experience in the development of residential/office/retail/hospitality in urban areas, architectural sensitivity to the proposed site, adjacent residential neighborhoods, buildings and activities and satisfactory financial references.

Proposals shall also need to address planning, design, financing, construction, timing, and project implementation. The city also notes that it strongly encourages a workforce housing component as part of any proposal.

The city states that proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20 to the City of Tampa Purchasing Department office, 306 E. Jackson St., Tampa, Florida 33605.

The West River redevelopment is a joint venture partnership of the Tampa Housing Authority and the Related Group of Florida. Collectively, the public-private partnership is currently developing 676 mixed income residential units in five projects with a total investment exceeding \$121 million.

At buildout, West River is projected to contain 1,600 housing units that will feature a mixture of approximately 50% workforce and affordable housing and 50% market rate. The project also calls for the development of hotel, retail and office space.