

# Mart to flower on site of ex-plant

BY DONALD BERTRAND

PLANS WERE unveiled last week for a 929,000-square-foot, \$260 million international merchandise mart just south of the AirTrain terminal in Jamaica.

The 13-story complex will rise on the L-shaped site of a long-vacant meat-packing plant on Sutphin Blvd. and 94th Ave.

It is the first economic development project announced since the historic rezoning of a 368-block area of downtown Jamaica enacted last month, said Carlisle Towery, the president of the Greater Jamaica Development Corp.

The development, said Towery, "will generate local employment and stimulate related

## Wholesaler complex set for Jamaica lot

business opportunities in Jamaica. We applaud Mayor Bloomberg and local community leaders for their leadership in Jamaica's rezoning, which helped make this project possible."

The meat-packing plant is being demolished with the assistance of a \$4 million loan from the city's Economic Development Corp.

"In addition to bringing an attractive international wholesale merchandise mart to Jamaica, it will also offer a home to local and national retailers and restaurants," said EDC President Robert Lieber.

Calling it a "true international undertaking," the EDC chief said the project is a result of cooperation among Korean-based Prime Construction Co.; a Korean/American entity, HRH AC Development; and several American partners, including Kingsbridge-Jamaica and the Greater Jamaica Development Corp.

Demolition of the existing building — vacant since 1965 — is expected to be complete by the end of December. Construction of the new complex is to begin in the third quarter of 2008 and is scheduled to take approximately three years.

National and local retailers and dining outlets are planned to occupy 172,000 square feet of space on the first three floors. The 10 upper floors will consist of a 576,000-square-foot merchandise mart for approximately 500 wholesalers. It will likely focus mainly on the electronics trade.

The below-grade portion will accommodate parking for about 800 cars.

Demolishing the almost 2-acre meat-packing plant will be a dramatic improvement in itself, said Towery, adding: "It will be pretty nice to eliminate that blight."

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