



By **Brian Bandell** - Senior Reporter, South Florida Business Journal
Nov 21, 2017, 2:52pm EST

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Davie officials selected Azur Equities to redevelop a key portion of downtown into restaurants, shops and entertainment facilities that together could create 400 jobs.

The city's request for proposals also includes a hotel on a 24-acre site including Town Hall and the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds.

Negotiations are ongoing with the developer on how to structure the deal, said **Kevin Crowder**, economic development director for Pompano Beach-based RMA, which Davie hired as a consultant on the RFP. They are considering whether part of the land should be leased or bought from the town by the developer, and what would happen to Town Hall. Azur Equities has the option to build a new Davie Town Hall, although the historic building that houses the council meetings must remain, Crowder said.

"The proposal is very responsive to what was requested," Crowder said. "I think it will move pretty quickly once we get the key business points worked out."

Led by **Sacha Touret**, Aventura-based Azur Equities already has four projects proposed along Davie Road, a **corridor that has attracted more interest from developers** because of its proximity to major highways and universities, and Davie's traditional Western charm.

Touret said he plans to build a restaurant, shopping and entertainment complex of about 100,000 square feet at the northwest corner of Davie Road and Orange Drive. There would also be a 140-room condo hotel and a multi-level parking garage.

"Our real focus is entertainment," Touret said. "There is enough residential coming on Davie Road. They need a place to play, and eat, and drink. We want it to be a place where families, students, and everyone can have a good time."

The idea is that residents and visitors could walk between the rodeo grounds, the entertainment complex and other attractions on the newly-widened sidewalks on Davie Road, Touret said. There would be open space for Western-themed events.

"They did a good job of making connections between the different elements of the 24-acre site," Crowder said.

Azur Equities also proposed jointly operating the rodeo arena with the town and building a museum.

Becker & Poliakoff attorney **Bernie Friedman** represents Azur Equities in the RFP process. It was designed by Cartaya & Associates.



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