



## CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DOWNTOWN GROUNDBREAKING KICKS OFF WITH A 'BANG'

**TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (7/3/10)** – More than 350 people gathered under drizzly skies Friday to celebrate as City leaders broke ground on the long-awaited *Downtown Redevelopment Project*.

Skies cleared in the nick of time as resident Peter Palmer sang “God Bless America” to get the event rolling. Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti was joined by County Commission Chairman Ken Hagan and many other dignitaries, including former U.S. Rep. Mike Bilirakis, to commemorate the historic occasion.

Michael Vlass of Vlass Temple Terrace, LLC spoke about the project, which will transform Temple Terrace’s core commercial district into a modern Town Center. The \$160-million project will focus on the 29-acre commercial center southeast of Bullard Parkway and 56<sup>th</sup> Street. It is now the site of two antiquated shopping centers and several undeveloped parcels.

Plans call for construction of a New Urbanism-style development incorporating retail, residential, office, restaurant and civic/cultural components. Plans include construction of a multiuse Arts & Education Center with space for studios and classrooms, as well as the performing arts. A new U.S. Post Office also is slated for the site.

Vlass Temple Terrace, LLC is a joint venture of the Atlanta-based Vlass Group, MJ Lant Developments, Inc., MTS Advisors, Inc. and Inland Diversified Real Estate Trust, acting as the project’s master developer.

Friday’s event was no ordinary groundbreaking, featuring food, drinks, entertainment and lots of excitement. The event ended with a bang as workers demolished a portion of the former Regions Bank building and fireworks blasted overhead. Officials from Sweetbay Supermarket attended to show their support of the project.

Mayor Affronti, city council members, and members of the development team then “broke ground” with gold shovels to officially kick off the project. The project will be constructed in several phases, with Friday’s groundbreaking kicking off Phase I. It is the largest municipal-improvement project in City history.

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