

# Tropicana, condo group settle dispute

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## ATLANTIC CITY

The Brighton Towers Condominium Association and the Tropicana have reached a \$500,000 settlement to resolve a lawsuit that threatened to block the casino's \$225 million expansion.

The settlement, reached Monday, also addresses several "quality of life" issues, said Glenn Zeitz, the Haddonfield attorney who represents the 172 owners. Bus traffic will be rerouted away from the building on Atlantic Avenue; the parking garage will be lowered in height and its ramp relocated to Pacific Avenue; sound barriers will be constructed; and a landscaped buffer put in.

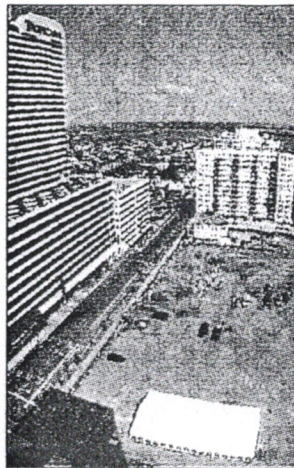
"We're looking forward to working with the Tropicana in the full spirit of cooperation," Zeitz said Tuesday.

A lower court had dismissed the claim, but the Brighton Towers Condominium Association appealed, a continued threat to the Tropicana plans.

Construction began last week, and politicians and casino executives held a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday.

The project, set to open by March 1, 2004, includes a 502-room hotel tower, 20,000 square feet of additional convention rooms and a 2,400-space parking garage.

But the centerpiece is The Quarter, a 200,000-square-foot dining, retail and entertainment complex. The expansion will



CHRIS POLK/Associated Press

**Tropicana Casino and Resort officials broke ground Tuesday for a planned \$225 million retail, dining and entertainment addition on this site.**

add some 2,000 permanent jobs to the existing 5,000.

Potential tenants include steakhouses like Morton's or the Palm; retailers such as Banana Republic and Hugo Boss; a sports bar, IMAX theater, a music club, and the relocated Comedy Stop.

The Quarter is the first construction under last year's legislation giving sales tax rebates to casinos chosen to develop one of six entertainment districts in Atlantic City.

Construction of an upscale outlet center in midtown known as The Walk is expected to start next month, under the sponsorship of Harrah's and Showboat. Also next month, Gordon Group Holdings LLC will unveil plans for a major make-over of the Shops At Ocean One, owned by Caesars.