

Developer buys Madison's building at Gay and High with speculative plans - Columbus - Columbus Business First

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Madisons

[Brian R. Ball](#)

Staff reporter- *Columbus Business First*

Columbus developer [Ricky Day](#) has plans for the former White Haines office and Madison's retail properties at 72-80 N. High St.

Day, a specialist in repositioning urban properties, gained control of the buildings after they were [cited in July for city code violations](#), less than two months after [he bought the building at 11 E. Gay St. downtown](#). Tentative plans totaling \$17 million call for structured parking and perhaps a hotel at the site of the properties purchased from the Tonti Organization, according to the developer's application for a city grant of \$135,990 for environmental remediation.

But Day told me plans aren't firm and he called the reference to a hotel and parking garage "speculative."

"We're still in the planning stages," the owner of Day Cos. said. "We just don't know what we'll do."

Day expects to rehab the properties, much as he has done with several other buildings on and around the East Gay and North High corner where he has renovated historic properties into an eclectic mix of office, apartments and retail space.

"In the meantime," he said, "we want to take care of any environmental abatement that needs done."

The bid to secure Green Columbus Fund support is scheduled to go before City Council on Nov. 24.

Brian R. Ball covers commercial real estate and development for Columbus Business First.

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