

Courtesy Hotel nears razing in West Hempstead

Originally Printed:	NEWSDAY Long Island Edition
Author:	BY EDEN LAIKIN eden.laikin@newsday.com
Date:	June 3, 2009

The infamous Courtesy Hotel in West Hempstead is one step closer to being torn down and replaced by a luxury rental-apartment complex.

Site plans submitted by developer Trammell Crow Residential were approved by the Hempstead Town Board at its Tuesday meeting.

The plan proposes a four-story residential building with 150 units atop a two-story underground parking garage.

Now that the site plan has been approved by the town and county, building plans and financing for the project will be completed and building permits applied for. "Hopefully [we'll] break ground soon after," said Maria Rigopoulos, spokeswoman for the developer.

"Some things may take longer because of the economy, but we're going to [build the complex]" Rigopoulos said. "If anybody can do it, it's Trammell Crow." She said the company was "just voted by Builder Magazine as the top multifamily developer in the country, for the third year in a row. If anybody has got a relationship with banks, it's us."

Joe Torg, the company's senior managing director, said preliminary conversations with banks have gotten "excellent response."

West Hempstead residents have supported the proposal since Trammell Crow went into contract to buy the Courtesy in 2006. They've said arrests for drug use and violent crime were a regular occurrence there. Trammell Crow struck a deal with the Town of Hempstead in December to build the complex.

Copyright © 2009, Newsday, Inc.