

# COMMERCIAL OBSERVER

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WOMEN IN REAL ESTATE ISSUE

## By the Power of Greystone

Lorie Hanson, Pamela LeVault and Pharrah Jackson of Greystone on their rises in real estate





## Naftali to Buy 800 Fifth Avenue for More Than \$800M



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TURNING A CORNER: The new owner will likely redevelop the 33-story, 208-unit 800 Fifth Avenue.

Development and investment firm **Naftali Group** has agreed to buy the 33-story luxury apartment building at **800 Fifth Avenue** for more than \$800 million.

Naftali has entered a contract to purchase the 208-unit property from **Spitzer Enterprises** — run by former New York Gov. **Eliot Spitzer** — and **Winter Properties**, Bloomberg reported.

**Newmark's Adam Spies** and **Doug Harmon** brokered the sale. Spitzer declined to comment, while the Newmark brokers and spokespeople for Naftali and Winter did not respond to requests for comment.

In January, Spitzer and Winter put the building between East 61st and East 62nd streets up for sale with an expected value of as much as \$1 billion, Bloomberg reported. The roughly

355,000-square-foot tower overlooking **Central Park** is currently used for rentals, with available apartments ranging from \$16,500 per month for a two-bedroom to \$23,000 for a three-bedroom, according to **StreetEasy**.

While Naftali's exact plans for the building are unclear, the property was marketed as a "major development opportunity" for investors to turn into for-sale residences, Bloomberg reported.

And Naftali is no stranger to luxury residential developments on the Upper East Side, as it owns both the **Benson and Bellemont** condo towers, according to its website. Across the river, Naftali is also in the process of building a five-building complex in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, called **Williamsburg Wharf**, which would have 850 apartments and condos.

—Isabelle Durso

## Savills Promotes Mitti Liebersohn to CEO of Tri-State Brokerage

Savills has promoted **Mitti Liebersohn** to CEO of brokerage operations for the firm's tri-state region. Liebersohn, who joined Savills in 2022 from **Avison Young**, has already started in the newly created position, he said.

As part of the promotion, Liebersohn will carry over many of his responsibilities from his prior position as chairman of New York brokerage and continue to work closely with **David Goldstein**, president of Savills' tri-state region, to "oversee financial performance, attract and retain top talent, and align operational strategy with the firm's long-term goals," according to an announcement.

"We just want to continue to be really strong and really competitive," Liebersohn told *Commercial Observer*. "We have super smart people who are passionate and focused and extremely competitive, and I just see that as such an incredibly winning formula. We see great success in the future."

In addition to leading tri-state brokerage operations, Liebersohn will be responsible for "strengthening cross-market collaboration and supporting new business development efforts across offices," the announcement said.

As for the areas Liebersohn intends to focus on in his new role, he said he's looking at opportunities in New Jersey and Long Island, including potential industrial projects.

Before joining Savills, Liebersohn worked as a vice chairman at **Cushman & Wakefield**, a vice chairman at **JLL**, and as president and managing director of New York City operations at **Avison Young**,



COURTESY SAVILLS

A FAMILIAR SMILE: Mitti Liebersohn has also held top positions with Avison Young and JLL.

according to his **LinkedIn** profile.

Liebersohn and **Arthur Mirante** were partners at Avison Young for nearly a decade and were credited with boosting the Toronto-based company's New

York City presence, doubling the size of the brokerage's office there. They both jumped ship to Savills at the same time, with Mirante becoming the vice chairman for North America. —I.D.

## Thorobird Planning Affordable Residential Building in Cypress Hills

Developer **Thorobird** filed plans for a 213-unit, affordable apartment building at **581 Grant Avenue** in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, property records show.

The plan was filed with the **New York City Department of Buildings** by **Sandy Rozario**, director of development with Thorobird. Rozario did not respond to a request for comment.

Thorobird wants to replace a two-family home at the site with an eight-story building that would include a community center on the first floor, according to **PincusCo**, which first reported the plans for the project. The Grant Avenue site is in a residential area between Pitkin and Glenmore avenues, about a block from Conduit Boulevard and near the Grant Avenue subway stop on the A train.

**Martin Kaplan** is listed as the architect of the project, according to **PincusCo**. Kaplan has designed other affordable housing projects, including **Bridge Rockaway** at **203 Newport Street** in Brooklyn, **St. Philip Neri Apartments** at **3069 Villa Avenue** in the Bronx, and the **Betances Family Apartments** at **405 East 146th Street** in the Bronx.

The project was first announced in 2019 as a 167-unit modular housing project designed by **Think! Architecture and Design**. It's unclear what happened to those plans and if Thorobird is still pursuing a modular design for the project.

—Amanda Schiavo