

# THE CRAIN'S INSIDER

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## Plan to relocate Bronx market merchants

Irwin Cohen, founder of the Chelsea Market, is in talks to build a wholesale and retail food market next to the Bronx Terminal Market, whose merchants are facing eviction to make room for a new shopping center. Cohen's plan would have the merchants relocate to a multi-level structure to be erected on 5.4 acres just north of the 149th Street Bridge. The land was previously slated for a velodrome in the city's failed 2012 Olympics bid. It is not large enough to accommodate the entire Terminal Market operation, so larger wholesalers would need to find additional space elsewhere. But the merchants are optimistic about the proposal.

The city Economic Development Corp.

says it is in discussions over the site but declined to comment further. A spokesman for The Related Cos., which is trying to find a new home for the merchants so it can redevelop the Terminal Market site, calls Cohen's idea "an interesting concept" but adds "there is no 'plan' to respond to yet."

Finding a site acceptable to the merchants would pave the way for City Council approval of the Gateway Center shopping complex Related would build at the Terminal Market site. The Bronx delegation's support is contingent on Related ratifying a just-drafted community benefits agreement that includes a reasonable relocation offer for the merchants. The council vote is expected on Feb. 8.