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Fort Lauderdale's Sea Beach Plaza motel sold for \$5.75M



The 40-room Sea Beach Plaza motel at 3081 Harbor Drive in Fort Lauderdale has sold for \$5.75 million.

(Arlene Satchell/STAFF)



By **Arlene Satchell**
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Another old motel near Fort Lauderdale beach has changed ownership as real estate investors gobble up parcels bordering the popular beachfront strip.

The 40-unit Sea Beach Plaza motel at 3081 Harbor Drive has sold for \$5.75 million, according to property deeds filed Friday in **Broward County**.

The motel's seller was Raj Hotels LLC of Weston, whose managers are Nirmla and Raj Motwani, Florida corporation records show.

The buyer of the motel built in 1951 was Harborage LLC, a Fort Lauderdale entity controlled by Thomas McFall.

Sea Beach Plaza, situated less than a block from Fort Lauderdale beach, last sold for \$2.6 million in June 2004, according to property records.

In recent months, several other prime lots near the beachfront strip have changed ownership.

In February, a company tied to Swedish developer Par Sanda sold three 1950s-era motel sites within walking distance of the beachfront corridor for \$12.1 million.

The former Martindale motel at 3016 Bayshore Drive had been earmarked for redevelopment along with two adjacent parcels previously occupied by the Sandy Shores and Seaside motels.

The properties' new owner is Bayshore Hotel LLC — led by Pawel Plata, who is associated with the Shell motel at 3030 Bayshore Drive and the Seville Hotel & Apartments a few blocks away.

That same month, the 23-room, two-building Drift Hotel at 3005-3007 Alhambra St. also changed ownership in a \$3.3 million deal.

The Drift, originally built in 1959, sits about a half block from the beachfront strip and is near other sites on Alhambra Street that are earmarked for redevelopment.

OTO Development of Spartanburg, S.C., recently bought a nearly 1-acre parcel stretching from 3017 to 3029 Alhambra St. with plans to build a 10-story, 175-room AC Hotels by Marriott.

Staff researcher Barbara Hijek contributed to this report

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