



## **GOLDMAN PULLS PLAN FOR \$2B BATTERY PARK HQ**

By **STEVE CUOZZO**

Goldman Sachs has pulled the plug on its plan to build a nearly \$2 billion headquarters tower in Battery Park City, dealing a severe blow to downtown hopes for a commercial renaissance near the World Trade Center site.

A source said the Wall Street firm's plan for a new tower on the West side of West Street between Vesey and Barclay streets — a vacant block known as Site 26 — remained "an option."

But, "We are in fact pulling back from moving forward there," an insider said, and the firm has begun looking at other possible locations.

Goldman Sachs' decision yesterday stunned representatives of the governor's and mayor's offices, who had expected to finalize a deal soon.

Plans for the 40-story tower were announced last summer and hailed as a morale-booster for downtown.

But Goldman has bickered with the state over plans for a West Street tunnel adjacent to Ground Zero that might place wide entrance portals in front of the new headquarters.

The bank's backing out could be a negotiating ploy to pressure the state to cancel the tunnel or move the portals north.

However, Goldman Sachs sources attributed the pullout to "growing uncertainty over what the whole neighborhood will look like," including concerns over "how the Freedom Tower will be positioned and how streets will be configured."

The insider said the firm will keep its headquarters in Lower Manhattan. But, until "the different constituencies resolve those issues, we are not in a position where we can move forward."

Goldman Sachs has thousands of employees in more than a half-dozen addresses around downtown.

Lower Manhattan Development Corp. president Kevin Rampe said, "We feel confident we'll be able to answer any concerns Goldman Sachs has and that Goldman will eventually see the merits of relocating to Site 26."

**Home**

NEW YORK POST is a registered trademark of NYP Holdings, Inc. NYPOST.COM, NYPOSTONLINE.COM, and NEWYORKPOST.COM are trademarks of NYP Holdings, Inc.

Copyright 2005 NYP Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved.