

OUC to hold off on shutting down Veranda Park buildings water and power

Developer files another bankruptcy

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ORLANDO - The Orlando Utilities Commission was going to pull the plug and shut off the water spigots Tuesday at much of the 30-acre Veranda Park project in MetroWest, unless someone paid the overdue utility bills.

But late in the day, developer Kevin Azzouz filed for bankruptcy protection for his Veranda Park Commercial Property Owners Association, the business entity Azzouz created to run his half-built \$700 million town center in west Orlando.

This action filed in the U.S. Middle District Bankruptcy Court halts all bill-collecting action at the property for 30 days, which means that the Orlando Utilities Commission is banned, for now, from shutting off the water and power in lieu of the more than \$378,000 it's owed.

This also means that the Orlando code enforcement officials won't declare the buildings uninhabitable.

The troubled project led by Azzouz has been drowning in red ink for many months, as the developer is facing a flurry of bankruptcies, foreclosures and liens.

This is his fourth bankruptcy filed for the project that was to bring a four-star hotel and new movie theater to MetroWest.

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