

New developer takes over MetroWest from Kevin Azzouz

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ORLANDO - **Kevin Azzouz** is officially no longer the developer of MetroWest, a 1,800 acre conglomeration of single-family neighborhoods, condominiums and businesses in west Orlando.

Legal papers were filed today in the **Orange County** Comptroller's Office that hand control of the troubled MetroWest Masters Association to a south Florida businessman Carl J. Shakarian.

The association is currently being sued by several residents and one of the non-profit corporations that govern a neighborhood underneath the master association's corporate umbrella.

The suit asks a judge to either give full control of the master association to the residents, or dissolve it.

Azzouz, who took control of the association in 2005, is facing a flurry of bankruptcies, liens and foreclosures, stemming from his half-built \$700 million town center within MetroWest called **Veranda Park**.

Also at question in the suit, is the allegation that Azzouz and/or his agents misspent \$2.3 million of the association's money.

Neither Azzouz nor Shakarian could be reached for comment.

Internet sites show Shakarian listed as a business consultant as well as an officer of a company that buys up collection rights on settled bankruptcies.

A developer controlled masters association is allowed to appoint three people to the five-member ruling board.

A new meeting had been called earlier this week to sort out who is and isn't on the board under the new developer, but that meeting was canceled by Judge Stan Strickland of the 9th Judicial Court in Orlando until the control issues have been worked out in court.

The association's attorney, Robert Taylor, has appealed Strickland's decision, Thursday, but no new ruling was made public this afternoon.

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