



BEACON STATION: Union Planters Bank-Florida will move into a 101,406-square-foot building being constructed at Beacon Station at Gran Park in northwest Miami-Dade County.

Union Planters Bank leases in Miami-Dade

Union Planters Bank-Florida will move its operations center to a new 101,406-square-foot building at Beacon Station at Gran Park in northwest Miami-Dade County.

The company signed a 10-year lease for a single-story building to be developed by **Codina Group**.

The company plans to consolidate two other offices in Miami-Dade and relocate more than 600 employees to the building.

Codina has already broken ground on the project, which should be completed by spring 2000, said Pedro J. Garcia, vice president with Codina Realty who represented the landlord, **Gran Central Corp.**

Union Planters will use the facility for computer and data processing of checks for clearing and as a training center.

Last month, Union Planters closed on the purchase of **Republic National Bank**. The bank has 88 offices in South Florida and about \$4.4 billion in deposits, making it the third-largest bank in Miami-

Dade County and the sixth-largest in Florida.

Garcia said the company's decision to move to Beacon Station at Gran Park was based partly on the location to major interchanges. The 900-acre park has its own interchange on Florida's Turnpike.

The first phase of the park, with 2.5 million square feet of space, is completed and 97 percent leased.

The recently started second phase, which will house the Union Planters facility, will have 4.5 million square feet of industrial space, 1.5 million square feet of office space and 500,000 square feet of retail.

Garcia said two 180,000-square-foot buildings are completed, a third is under way. Another 106,000-square-foot building also is completed. He said the park is a good choice because of the excellent highway access, proximity to residential areas, and lease prices that average less than \$20 per square foot.

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