



## **New York City in the hunt for a Medical Mart too**

[Tom Beres](#)

POSTED: Friday, August 03, 2007 3:34:23 PM

UPDATED: Friday, August 03, 2007 7:45:27 PM

CLEVELAND -- A New York City developer has announced plans for a building that would be an exhibit hall for health care products and technology.

It apparently means Cleveland now faces competition as it seeks to build a similar facility here combined with a convention center.

The New York City proposal came to light this week and was discussed at a City Club presentation by Medical Mart supporters.

Fred Nance, the local attorney and Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Partnership is now the point man in project negotiations.

"We have a stronger calling card, but we definitely have competition. We need to move forward in the next couple of months," he said.

Chris Kennedy, the CEO of the firm that wants to build the Medical Mart in Cleveland says he is committed to locating here. But he claims a delay caused by a possible vote on overturning a sales tax to fund a convention center could hurt its chances of happening.

A group of Cleveland council members and

small political groups is trying to collect 45,000 signatures in 30 days to force a vote.

Convention and Visitors Bureau President Dennis Roche described the proposal here as a needed boost for the hotel and restaurant business.

Bioenterprise President Baiju Shah claimed it could help local health care companies display their products and help them add jobs.

Click "Play Video" to watch the entire City Club Presentation.

© 2007 WKYC-TV. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.