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INSIDE LOCAL BUSINESS



Paul Owers

Old Banana site goes to furnishings

The **Banana Republic** space went dark on **Clematis Street** nearly two years ago. But it didn't sit empty because real estate broker **Jonathan Satter** couldn't find prospective tenants.

He just couldn't find the right one.

"I can't tell you how many requests we had to put a nightclub in there," Satter said.

But Clematis needs another nightclub like rocker **Tommy Lee** needs another tattoo.

Satter's patience was rewarded last week when **Leiser Collection**, a high-end home furnishings chain, signed a five-year lease for the 6,800-square-foot storefront.

Leiser, a unit of **Ariel**, one of the world's largest leather tanners, is expected to open within the next two months.

Last year, Satter leased the former **Gap** space on Clematis to another home furnishings chain, **Design Within Reach**.

He also handled the recent sale of a retail condo unit at the **Esplanade Grande** to **Gracie Street Interior Design**.

"Home furnishing stores are destination-oriented," Satter said. "And all these residential units going up downtown, that's what gets these stores excited."