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## Pittsburgh Pirates looking for a new restaurant to step up to the plate at PNC Park

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The Pittsburgh Pirates are looking to find a new restaurant in a spot at PNC Park that has long been occupied by Atria's Restaurant & Tavern.

CBRE Executive Vice President Herky Pollock is circulating a marketing brochure seeking a new restaurant for the 5,514-square-foot location at 103 Federal Street within PNC Park, which is the location of Atria's, a popular spot with mezzanine seating that has operated at the ballpark since it opened in 2001.

Pollock confirmed he has been hired by the Pittsburgh Pirates to find a replacement tenant for Atria's and wasn't sure how much longer the restaurant would operate at PNC Park, which is hosting the team's home opener on Monday.

When asked how long the Atria's would operate within its long-time location at PNC Park, Pollock said, "We're not sure exactly when, but our expectation is they're not going to be there long."

With the location operating under the name Atria's Live at PNC Park, the restaurant was billed for years as the local haunt of Johnny Angel and the Halos, the doo-wop act lead by Jack Hunt Jr., a partner in Atria's, who would perform on stage there, giving it a nightclub appeal when it wasn't serving diners.

The ownership of the restaurant didn't respond for comment. Calls to the restaurant only reached a full voicemail box. Pat McDonnell, the long-time principal of Atria's, didn't return calls.

Pollock said he's been charged with finding a quality replacement for the restaurant.

"We're in no hurry to make a desperation decision just to fill the space for opening day (on April 2)," he said.

He expects the prominent location will draw interest, noting the ballpark's annual attendance of more than 2 million fans, along with its location on a North Shore increasingly dense with office users and other activity.

It's been a run of 17 years for Atria's at PNC Park. Atria's opened there at a time when it was best known as a local landmark of Mt. Lebanon, where it had operated as a single-location, mom-and-pop institution since 1930. Since then, Atria's has grown into a Pittsburgh-area chain that today operates nine locations in western Pennsylvania.



JOE WOJCIK

Travis Ricker, bartender at Atria's Restaurant and Tavern at PNC Park, in Pirates garb serving customers outside and barking out "beers for sale" in a Pirate accent.

Sokoloff, president of Specialty Bar & Restaurant Brokers, who works with restaurants throughout the region and is a season ticket holder of the Pittsburgh Pirates, said she'll miss Atria's. She described a need for such a restaurant at PNC Park, noting how it served more than just a bar crowd and was a place she often went for business meetings.

"I guess everybody's time will come and it's just a different ball game," Sokoloff said.

**Tim Schooley**

Reporter

*Pittsburgh Business Times*

