

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2005-2006
December 15, 2005**

Block Club: Area II

Neighborhoods: Palmetto Beach, Historic Ybor City, Belmont Heights/Jackson Heights, College Hill Community, Live Oak Square, South Nebraska, Woodland Terrace, and River Cove.

Boundaries: Sligh Avenue and Hillsborough River (north); Hillsborough Bay (south); 40th Street (east); 15th Street (west).

Chairperson: Mr. Vince Ficarotta
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Contact Person: Betty P. Wiggins
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Need and Recommendation 1. Underwrite the cost of Leasehold Improvements for Business/Commercial and Incubator Projects.

The property is on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. 39th Street is the east boundary. 37th Street is the west boundary.

Organization wants to develop business/commercial property. Two structures are involved:

- a. A 4,000 square feet commercial building**
- b. A 2,000 square feet strip center (4 units of 500 sq. ft. each) (See Attachment A)**

Response: From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner III, Housing and Community Development, 274-8228. On an annual basis, the City of Tampa advertised the availability of CDBG funds and request interested organization to submit proposals. Each proposed project requesting CDBG funds is evaluated to determine if the project meets the CDBG eligible activity criteria and a national objective. This project could qualify for CDBG funds (i.e. acquisition, construction) and the type of activity and national object being met (i.e. job creation).

Update: From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner III, Housing and Community Development, 274-8228. The city's CDBG FY06 funding cycle has passed and this project was not submitted for consideration. The next CDBG funding cycle will open in January 2006.

Update: From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Budget Office, 274-8552. The Budget Office sent a Request for Proposal (RFP) to Ms. Wiggins but the application wasn't returned. She will be added to the mailing list for Fiscal Year 2007 funding.

Contact Person: Dr. G'han Singh
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Need and Recommendation 2. Renovation at Eighteenth Avenue Playground.

The Eighteenth Avenue Playground, located at 2902 N. 32nd Street needs renovation. Bathrooms and snack pavilion are in need of renovation. The tennis courts need resurfacing, and benches need to be replaced.

This facility is located in the East Tampa Front Porch Community, and needs these repairs in order to increase safety; thereby increase participation/visitation by community residents.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department has requested funding in the Fiscal Year 2006 budget for consultant services to design projects by Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This project may be funded through the TIF funds for East Tampa.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Department did not receive enough CIP funding to fund this project in fiscal year 2006. We are still looking into using TIF funds. Landscaping and erosion control will be done with the remaining funding.

Need and Recommendation 3. Repair Drainage at 33rd Avenue.

The drainage problem on 33rd Avenue off 29th Street causes flooding to public areas, and to adjacent homes in East Tampa.

The drainage problem exists because the run-off water cannot make its way to the drains near the railroad track – the street is not sloped enough to allow the water to run off. Also, the drain on the alley needs to be tapped into so that the water will not flood homes and/or leave standing water.

Response: From Alex Awad, Engineer III, Stormwater, 274-7865. The Stormwater Department investigated the Stormwater concern at 33rd Avenue. A work order has been initiated to clear the existing inlet and regrade the drainage swale to function properly. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call the Maintenance and Operations Division at 622-1901.

Update: From Alex Awad, Engineer III, Stormwater, 274-7865. The work on 33rd Avenue has been completed.

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Need and Recommendation 4. Improvements needed at Eighteenth Avenue Playground.

- a. Construct a multi-purpose center.**
- b. Construct two (2) additional picnic shelters.**
- c. Install additional tables/benches, grills.*
- d. Install playground equipment.**
- e. Purchase equipment such as TV/VCR, table games, tables/chairs, exercise mats, etc. for the center.*

The playground is located at 2902 N. 32nd Street (between E. 21st Avenue and E. 18th Avenue).

There continues to be an increase in single and multi-family homes being built within close proximity to the park. Children are playing in the streets because the current building is too small, there is no air conditioning, and there is no space for tutoring or other classes. More participation from families, churches and schools will take place if the park is updated.

Response to a., b. d.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730.

a.) Design funds for Playground Activity Center are requested in the Fiscal Year 2006 budget.

Update a.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department did not receive enough CIP funding to fund this project in fiscal year 2006. We are still looking into using TIF funds.

b.) This playground does not warrant an additional picnic shelter at this time.

d.) There is sufficient playground equipment at this time.

Palmetto Beach Civic Association

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Need and Recommendation 11. Sidewalk's need to be repaired or replaced, on Bermuda Boulevard, especially between Gordon Street and Davis Street. North side of Clark Street needs a sidewalk.

The sidewalks on Bermuda Boulevard are badly damaged and can be very dangerous for people who use these sidewalks, especially our senior citizens and small children. Clark Street is a main street that vehicles use to take children to DeSoto Elementary School. It can be very dangerous for the children who walk to school from the community. This would prevent any near future accidents to happen to our children and others.

Response: From Jan Washington, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8303. Restoration of damaged sidewalk on Bermuda Boulevard was provided in FY03. If there is more recent damage since then, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Each year, new sidewalk locations are selected from our database as candidates for construction based on Citizen input, constructability, budget constraints, and a benefit/cost ratio. Citizens can submit requests anytime during the year and they will be evaluated. We retain the information until the sidewalk is built. If a citizen is interested in the current “ranking” of any requested segment, they are encouraged to call the Sidewalk Section at 635-3407 for information.

Last year, we evaluated this same request for new sidewalk on Clark Street block-by-block and north and south sides. Our records indicate there is existing sidewalk on the north side from 22nd Street to 26th Street, but existing sidewalk switches to the south side from 26th Street to 28th Street, and there is no sidewalk on either side from 28th Street to 30th Street. The city’s ultimate goal is sidewalk on both sides of every roadway, but due to budget constraints, our current policy is to ensure that there is a sidewalk on at least one side of a requested location. There are many streets without any sidewalk, so those locations are considered a priority over those with sidewalk already on one side. However, evidence of a higher benefit/cost ratio for sidewalks on both sides will be given a higher priority.

We evaluated the requested locations and consider them priority 3 concerns. There are several large oak trees and utility poles on the north side from 26th Street to 28th Street that make construction difficult. The following work orders are in our database:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Work Order#</u>	<u>Segment: From: To</u>
3	6752	*Clark (south side): 22 nd to 24 th
3	6753	*Clark (south side): 24 th to 26 th
	To be determined at a later date	Clark (south side): 28 th to 30 th

*NOTE: Existing sidewalk on the south side of Clark from 26th to 28th

- Priority 1**-Severe damages in highly traffic areas.
- Priority 2**-Severe damages in low traffic areas.
- Priority 3**-Standard New Sidewalk Construction Request.

Update: From Jan Washington, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8303. The following work order has been added to the database:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Work Order#</u>	<u>Segment: From: To</u>
3	6192	Clark (south side): 28 th to 30 th

Need and Recommendation 15. Need soccer field and softball field completed and lighting put in place at DeSoto Park (DeSoto Park and 26th Street).

We need the soccer field, softball field and lighting completed. DeSoto Park Master Plan implementation includes funding to provide replacement of the soccer field, softball field and lighting, but it has not been completed. We have many adults, youth and children who play these sports in our community. This has caused a great hardship for these people and our community.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Softball/soccer field site work is out to bid and should begin soon. The lighting project will be fulfilled at the completion of the site work.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. This project was completed in fiscal year 2005.

Need and Recommendation 16. Bermuda Boulevard beautification.

- a. Replace/repair seawall.*
- b. Added sidewalks, Greenway trail.**
- c. Need help to reduce speeders via speed bumps, humps, or tables installed on Bermuda Boulevard.**
- d. Need help to remove houseboat, there are people living on the 2nd floor of houseboat and it has been damaged by the recent hurricanes. This is not being maintained by owner.*
- e. Need to stop/eliminate illegal construction in McKay Bay. We need to help to clean up McKay Bay; it has become a ugly site to see while driving down Bermuda Boulevard.*
- f. The bike path is incomplete from the Licata Bridge (south) to DeSoto Park (north).*

Response to b.: From Jan Washington, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8303. Our records indicate there is an existing sidewalk along the west side of Bermuda Boulevard for its entire length from 22nd Street to 24th Street. The City of Tampa's ultimate goal is sidewalks on both sides of every roadway, but due to budget constraints, our current policy is to ensure that there is a sidewalk on at least one side of a requested location. There are many streets without any sidewalk, so those locations are considered a priority over those with sidewalk already on one side.

Response to b.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation will add sidewalks as expansion occurs in the park. The greenway trail has been completed.

Update to b.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Sidewalk has been added from the parking area to the play unit.

Response to c.: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Currently, Bermuda Boulevard between E. Linsey Street and S. 22nd Street is ranked 124 out of 156 local residential and Neighborhood Collector streets with a documented speeding problem. We are currently working to resolve the documented speeding problems in the order of severity (worse-case first). When we reach Bermuda Boulevard on the Speeding Location List (SLL), we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

Update to c: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Currently, Bermuda Boulevard between E. Linsey Street and S. 22nd Street is ranked 122 out of 164 local residential and Neighborhood Collector streets with a documented speeding problem. We are currently working to resolve the documented speeding problems in the order of severity (worst-case first).

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