

**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: Ms. Loujean Williams
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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 c., e.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730.

c.) Parks and Recreation will install tables/benches and grills in Fiscal Year 2006.

e.) These items will be purchased when the center is constructed.

Update to e.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The center was not funded in this fiscal year, will request funding in fiscal year 2007.

Need and Recommendation 5. Installation of Directional Signals.

- a. **Install east and west directional turn signals on N. 34th Street and E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.**
- b. **Install east and west directional turn signals on N. 34th Street and E. Hillsborough Avenue.**
- c. **Install east and west directional turn signals on N. 22nd Street and E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.**

These intersections have a high volume of traffic.

Response to a.-c.: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8105. All of the above requested locations are under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa. The contact person is Mr. Anthony Chaumont at 975-6250. Please call him directly with your concerns.

Need and Recommendation 6. Re-evaluate the Intersection of N. 34th Street and E. 21st Avenue.

This intersection is very dangerous and needs to be re-evaluated to cut down on accidents.

Response: From Ron Phillips, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The Transportation Division has completed an investigation into concerns regarding the number of accidents that are occurring at the intersection of N. 34th Street and E. 21st Avenue.

A review of the accident history from 2002-2004 showed that there were 13 reported accidents at this intersection during the 3 year period – 4 accidents in 2002, 5 accidents in 2003 and 4 accidents in 2004. This is not indicative of an intersection experiencing a serious safety problem. Over the past several years the intersection has been studied on numerous occasions and various strategies have been implemented to improve the safety at this location.

Based on our review of the accident history and field observations of the operating characteristics of the intersection, there is no evidence of any need for additional safety measures. Currently the intersection is operating at an acceptable level of safety. Should conditions change in the future, we will re-evaluate the intersection.

Contact Person: Ms. Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes
1906 N. 25th Street
Tampa, FL 33605
Email: ccheatha@tampabay.rr.com

Need and Recommendation 7. Funds to Develop a website for the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc.

**Boundaries: National Historic District/Historic East Ybor
North: Interstate 4, East: zigzag line from 28th Street N. to 26th Street North,
South: Adamo Drive/Highway 60, West: 22nd Street North.**

Requesting funds for a professionally designed/hosted/maintained website with a registered domain name for the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc. with domain name email addresses available to all members (2-yr. Contract).

Funds requested: \$800.00

A website for/by the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc. to disseminate information regarding the activities of the Association and issues vital to our historic community. The website will present a professional/progressive image of Historic East Ybor and its residents and businesses. The website will provide links to municipal services/contacts as well as Internet mail and chat room capabilities for more effective communication between members. The website will be a venue of information for members as well as a means to attract new membership and communicate our activities to the public and civic leaders.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office highly encourages all neighborhood associations to communicate with the residents in their neighborhoods and highly supports the creation of a neighborhood website and a neighborhood newsletter. Currently, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Office does not have budgeted funds to provide to the registered City of Tampa neighborhood associations for communications efforts. The Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations is seeking funding in FY06 for neighborhood mini-grants to qualified City of Tampa registered neighborhood associations. The East Ybor Historic and Civic Association is currently a registered City of Tampa neighborhood association and would be able to apply to this new City of Tampa mini-grant program.

Update: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, 274-7835. The Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations received funding in FY06 for neighborhood mini-grants to qualified City of Tampa registered neighborhood associations. We anticipate launching the grant in January 2006.

Need and Recommendation 8. Funds to Implement and Distribute a Newsletter for the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc.

**Boundaries: National Historic District/Historic East Ybor
North: Interstate 4, East: zigzag line from 28th Street N. to 26th Street North,
South: Adamo Drive/Highway 60, West: 22nd Street North.**

Requesting funds to develop, publish, and distribute a printed newsletter for the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc.

Funds requested: \$700.00

A newsletter for/by the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc. to disseminate information (to those with/without Internet access) regarding the activities of the association and issues vital to our historic community. The newsletter will project the personal image and history of our community its residents and businesses. The newsletter will be a venue of information for members as well as a means to attract new membership and communicate our activities to the public and civic leaders.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office highly encourages all neighborhood associations to communicate with the residents in their neighborhoods and highly supports the creation of a neighborhood website and a neighborhood newsletter. Currently, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Office does not have budgeted funds to provide to the registered City of Tampa neighborhood associations for communications efforts. The Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations is seeking funding in FY06 for neighborhood mini-grants to qualified City of Tampa registered neighborhood associations. The East Ybor Historic and Civic Association is currently a registered City of Tampa neighborhood association and would be able to apply to this new City of Tampa mini-grant program.

Update: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, 274-7835. The Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations received funding in FY06 for neighborhood mini-grants to qualified City of Tampa registered neighborhood associations. We anticipate launching the grant in January 2006.

Palmetto Beach Civic Association

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Need and Recommendation 9. Palmetto Beach Community would like a gate-way for the north entrance and south entrance of Palmetto Beach Community.

Palmetto Beach Community was founded around 1864. We like to be recognized by people who drive through our community. We are very proud of our small community, ancestors, history and that we are separate from Ybor City. Palmetto Beach used to be a small town of itself in the past and the community still exists.

Response: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Your request for gate-way features at the entrances to the Neighborhood has been forwarded to the city's Public Arts Administrator and the city's Urban Design Manger for consideration and a determination as to sources of funding. This response will be provided in update.

Update: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The East Tampa Area is under consideration for various, plausible Public Art projects. The gateway features you desire may be recommended to City Council next Spring for possible inclusion into the Fiscal Year 2007 that begins in October 2006.

Need and Recommendation 10. Palmetto Beach Community would like a marquee placed at Desoto Park (Desoto Park, 26th Street).

The marquee sign can be used to announce activities at DeSoto Park, association meetings, crime watch, etc... A banner or poster are always damaged by the weather and can't be read while driving by the DeSoto Park. The sign should be placed on the Bermuda Boulevard, which is the west side of the park.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. DeSoto Park will receive new signage. The department is currently replacing signs with new designed signs. However, marquee signs are not in our standards.

Need and Recommendation 12. Planning (Palmetto Beach Neighborhood). A Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan needs to be done for Palmetto Beach.

To make our neighborhood an attractive place for investment, careful proactive planning is needed. We need a zoning study of the entire makeup of the neighborhood's residential areas to go along with last year's request of a zoning study for the 22nd Street corridor that has changed, due to cul-de-sac dead end that is already created and the completion of the six-lane 20th Street. An economic study has already been requested for several years now in wait of the East Tampa Plan that was finally announced a couple of years ago. A planning body is needed to take on this project and facilitate the community's involved planning requirements. Our community is being affected by the cross-town expansion. Some more of our residents will have to re-locate due to their homes and property being purchased because of this expansion involving our community.

Response: From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner III, Housing and Community Development, 274-8228. As discussed in previous responses, the City works closely with the Hillsborough County City County Planning Commission staff to develop neighborhood studies of targeted areas within the City. The Planning Commission has worked with the City to prepare several Neighborhood Plans and Economic Development Studies, including East Tampa.

Both the City and the Planning Commission have limited planning staff available to accommodate special projects request, such as area wide zoning studies, economic development studies and neighborhood plans. Unfortunately, the City must appropriate the limited planning resources available to neighborhoods with the most severe condition, requiring immediate attention. At this time, the City does not have the Palmetto Beach area scheduled for special projects. The City's administration has committed the limited planning staff time to studying the target areas with blighted conditions and economic distress. Without clear direction for the City's administration, the City does not have adequate planning resources available at this time to undertake the requested Comprehensive Neighborhood Study.

The City Land Development Coordination staff is available on a daily basis to answer and research general questions concerning the existing zoning and future land use categories of the properties within the Palmetto Beach area. Specifically, staff can answer questions and provide information concerning potential zoning changes relating to street reconfigurations, street widening, change in traffic patterns and new cul-de-sac locations.

Need and Recommendation 13. Defining separation wall (east side of new roadway referred to as 20th Street – from the intersection with 22nd Street on the south to 22nd Street intersection on the north).

We want a wall (bricks, mortar or white PVC fence and landscaping) along the eastern edge of 20th Street to separate the neighborhood from the highway the FDOT has built to move traffic off 22nd Street. The eastern side of this six-lane roadway was created by taking out a swath of land from the western edge of the city blocks that make up part of the residential area of Palmetto Beach. This has exposed homes and backyards all down the stretch. This highway has accommodated the industrial business everywhere. Traffic lights, median cuts and turn lanes have all been defined by what the big businesses wanted. The wall needs to go up to define and separate our residential area of the neighborhood from all industrial big businesses, tanker roads, tractor-trailer trucks and traffic.

Response: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The 20th Street roadway project and the associated public right-of-way are under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). They have no future plans to construct a wall along the eastern right-of-way line of 20th Street.

The City of Tampa cannot justify the cost of constructing a wall unless it was a part of a city roadway project. City efforts to obtain outside funding for any fencing or wall have been exhausted without identifying a possible source. Nevertheless, the city will continue to investigate grants in future years in the hope that one will emerge that would be able to fund the construction of a wall or fence in this area. Of course, the owners of abutting properties have the options to screen themselves with landscaping and fences on private property with the proper permits.

Need and Recommendation 14. DeSoto Park Pavilion (DeSoto Park and 26th Street) needs a retention Pond or culvert so this will drain off standing water in the front entrance on the north side of the building when it rains.

When there are heavy rains, the water is not draining off and it floods in front of the entrance to pavilion on the north side of the building. The grass area holds too much water also. This causes major problems when we have functions held at the pavilion and during the summer when children are attending the summer programs.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation will work with Stormwater Department in order to determine the problem and appropriate action that needs to take place.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation have taken care of the low spot.

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 a.: From Thomas Capell, Street Design Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. We are in the process of selecting an Engineering Consultant to evaluate the condition of the seawall and determine the scope of work and estimated cost necessary for repair.

Update to a.: From Thomas Capell, Street Design Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The City has a consultant on-board who has inventoried the damage and is currently studying the problem areas and will provide a report of recommended solutions for repair and the estimated costs. We hope to see the final report early next year.

Response to d.: From Ann Andrews, Grants Specialist, Police Department, 276-3755. Tampa Police Department's Marine Unit investigated this request and found the boat not floating and sitting on the muck bottom. The unit suggests this situation should be handled by code enforcement.

Response to d., e.: From William Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562.

d.) The Code Enforcement Department does not have jurisdiction over this houseboat but will ask the Port Authority for assistance.

Update to d.: From William Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Port Authority has jurisdiction with respect to houseboats and continues to monitor the situation in the Palmetto Beach area concerning the crab shacks.

e.) The Code Enforcement Department will cite private property owners who are in violation of the code in this area.

Response to f.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department is in the design stage of developing a bike path along the Licata Bridge (south) to DeSoto Park (north).

Update to f.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department is in the conceptual design stage of developing a bike path from the Licata Bridge (south) to DeSoto Park (north).

Need and Recommendation 17. The Community needs speed tables on Stuart Street (between Bermuda Boulevard and 22nd Street), 24th Street (from Bermuda Boulevard to Long Street), and Bermuda Boulevard.

We have many people who are driving fast on Bermuda Boulevard, Stuart Street and 24th Street. There are many people who do not stop at the stop signs on 24th Street. We have too many children in the community who are playing or riding their bicycles. We need something to slow these people down while driving in the community. They do not obey the speed limit or stop at these stop signs. We can report this all the time to the police, but it only slows a person down when a police is present, but at other times the people are speeding or running stop signs. We have concern for the safety for the children and senior citizens in our community. We need the tables to help slow down the fast drivers and prevent a tragic accident from happening in our community.

Response: 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 SLL, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

Before considering the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures, a documented speeding problem must exist. This documentation takes place once the Transportation Division staff conducts a speed study and substantiates the existence of a speeding problem.

Speed studies determine the 85th percentile speed. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at, or below which, 85% of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. Currently, the Transportation Division, in cooperation

with the Tampa Police Department, considers speeding a problem at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10 mph or more above the designated speed limit.

The City of Tampa has documented over 226 locations City-wide with speeding problems. Of the 226 locations, 156 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential or Neighborhood Collector roadways.

As each new speeding location is documented, they are added to the Speeding Location List (SLL). This list contains all of the locations in the city that have documented speeding problems. The SLL is a prioritization tool and a prerequisite prior to considering a location for traffic calming measures. The SLL ranks speeding locations by the greatest differential between the 85th percentile speed and the designated speed limit. This sorting ranks the worst speeding locations first and as each new speeding location is documented and added to the SLL, rankings change.

Speed studies have been requested for Stuart Street between Bermuda Boulevard and 22nd Street, and 24th Street between Bermuda Boulevard and Long Street. The estimated time of completion is approximately 12–16 weeks. After the speed studies are completed, our findings will be shared with you. If you have not received an update on the speed study after this 16-week period, please contact us at 274-8333.

Update: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. On Wednesday, 10/26/05 a 24-hour speed and volume study was conducted on the aforementioned street. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25-mph. The resulting 85th percentile speed was 31.6-mph. Based on the results of this study; Stuart Street from S. 22nd Street to S. 24th Street does not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding problem.

On Wednesday, 10/26/05 a 24-hour speed and volume study was conducted on the aforementioned street. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25-mph. The resulting 85th percentile speed was 21.9-mph. Based on the results of this study; S. 24th Street from Harper Street to Stuart Street does not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding problem.