

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2006-2007
December 5, 2006**

Block Club: Area III

Neighborhoods: Old Seminole Heights, Southeast Seminole Heights, Ybor Heights, V.M. Ybor, Tampa Heights, Davis Islands, Historic Ybor, South Nebraska, and Harbor Island.

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

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Need and Recommendation 1. Additional building built to replace existing building (The Kathryn Malone Center).

Giddens Park, located at the corner of 12th Street and Giddens Avenue, has served the needs of area residents for over 60 years.

The neighborhood is very appreciative of the many improvements, which have occurred in Giddens Park over the last couple of years and is very excited about the improvements being implemented by Tampa's Greenprinting Initiative, who selected Giddens Park as the first recipient for park improvements and upgrades.

Requesting that an additional building be built to replace the existing building, the Kathryn Malone Center, to serve the needs of the neighborhood and civic association. At the present time,

there is not enough room in the existing building to accommodate the neighborhood needs, the needs of the civic association, nor is the building large enough to accommodate the needs of our neighborhood children who are utilizing the center as a part of the City of Tampa's Parks Department. Currently, the present occupancy does not allow for more than 20-25 people to occupy the building comfortably.

When the overhaul of Giddens Park was being designed by the Tampa Greenprinting Initiative, the Mayor's Beautification Committee and the Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association, space was reserved for the construction of a new community center. We are requesting that the new center be constructed.

We feel that as the park is upgraded and with a new upgraded neighborhood center, it will continue to enhance neighborhood patronage as well as providing necessary facilities to accommodate the large number of people and the Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association who use the park.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Funding is not available at this time. However, the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to work with the community on requesting funding for the center in FY08 CIP and/or CIT dollars.

Need and Recommendation 2. Installation of speed tables.

Requesting installation of speed tables along 12th Street between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Hillsborough Avenue.

Presently, 12th Street is without sidewalks and is a busy street for both cars and pedestrians without sidewalks. In addition, it runs along side of Giddens Park (Giddens Avenue on the north side of Giddens Park already has speed tables and sidewalks). We have concerns about the number of cars speeding down 12th Street and feel that speed tables would address this concern as well as address the safety concerns for pedestrians.

Response: From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures on local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways, 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. In rare circumstances, such as an intersection with a documented history of pedestrian accidents, other site specific traffic calming measures may be implemented.

Speed studies determine the 85th percentile speed. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at, or below which 85% percent of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. The Transportation Division, in cooperation with the Tampa Police Department, considers speeding to be 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 currently has documented 235 locations city-wide with speeding problems on local residential streets, Neighborhood-Collector roadways, and the higher volume Collectors and Arterials. Of the 235 locations, 160 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways. The remaining locations do not qualify for traffic calming because they are classified as Collectors and Arterials.

As each new speeding location is documented, it is added to the Speeding Location List (SLL). This list contains all of the locations in the City of Tampa 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. Additionally, rankings will change when each new speeding location is documented. When we reach a requested location on the SLL that qualifies for traffic calming measures, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

Currently N. 12th Street between E. Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and E. Osborne Avenue is ranked 22, and N. 12th Street between E. Osborne Avenue and E. Hillsborough Avenue is ranked 35 out of the 160 local residential streets and Neighborhood-Collector roadways with a documented speeding problem. However, both of these segments were last studied over a year ago, so new speed studies have been requested for both segments. The estimated time of completion is approximately 12 – 16 weeks. After the speed studies have been completed, the Speeding Location List will be updated to reflect the new study findings which may affect current rankings.

Note: On 4/24/06, Tampa Tribune reported that Department of Transportation installed new signs and striping on the intersection of 12th Street and Chelsea Street. These changes we believe have been sufficient to address the request.

Update: From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. On Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 24-hour speed and volume studies were conducted on North 12th Street between East Martin Luther King Boulevard and East Chelsea Street. The posted speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed as determined by the study was 33 mph. Additionally, the 24-hour volume count indicated a total volume of 1,628 vehicles, 819 vehicles north bound and 809 vehicles south bound. Based on these results, North 12th Street between East Martin Luther King Boulevard and East Chelsea Street does not appear to be experiencing a speeding problem and has been dropped from the SLL.

On Tuesday, March 21, 2006, 24-hour speed and volume studies were conducted on North 12th Street between East Osborne Avenue and East Hillsborough Avenue (On North 12th Street adjacent to Giddens Park). The posted speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed as determined by the study was 33 mph. Additionally, the 24-hour volume count indicated a total volume of 917 vehicles, 398 vehicles north bound and 519 vehicles south bound. Based on these results, North 12th Street between East Osborne Avenue and East Hillsborough Avenue does not appear to be experiencing a speeding problem and has been dropped from the SLL.

Need and Recommendation 3. Installation of speed tables.

Requesting installation of speed tables along Chelsea Street.

Presently, Chelsea Street is a busy street for both cars and pedestrians without sidewalks. We have concerns about the number of cars speeding down Chelsea Street and feel that speed tables would address this concern as well as address the safety concerns for pedestrians.

Last year, speed tables were placed along Taliaferro Street without the involvement of the civic association. We, as an association, did not see the need for their installation, especially compared to the needs of 12th Street and Chelsea Street.

In the future, we are requesting civic association involvement in addressing the traffic needs of our neighborhood.

Response: From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Currently, E. Chelsea Street between N. Nebraska Avenue and N. 12th Street is ranked 130 out of the 160 local residential streets and Neighborhood-Collector roadways with a documented speeding problem. However, this segment was last studied over a year ago, so a new speed study has been requested for this segment. The estimated time of completion is approximately 12 – 16 weeks. After the speed study has been completed, the Speeding Location List will be updated to reflect the new study findings which may affect current rankings.

Because we currently work to resolve documented speeding problems in the order of severity (worst case first) when we reached N. Taliaferro Avenue between E. Osborne Avenue and E. Hillsborough Avenue on the SLL (then ranked 13 out of 156 and substantially worse than E. Chelsea Street's ranking of 135 out of 159), we worked with the affected (abutting) property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem. A courtesy call was placed to the Southeast Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association to advise the president that N. Taliaferro Avenue had been selected as a 2005 candidate for traffic calming. This same notification process is performed for all traffic calming candidates.

The Transportation Division is pleased to perform traffic studies at any location where a resident, a block club or a neighborhood association perceives a traffic related problem. While community input is greatly appreciated and valuable for directing our traffic studies, the selection of traffic calming candidates is a function performed by the Transportation Division.

Update: From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. On Tuesday, March 21, 2006, 24-hour speed and volume studies were conducted on East Chelsea Street between North Nebraska Avenue and North 12th Street. The posted speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed as determined by the study was 31 mph. Additionally, the 24-hour volume count indicated a total volume of 1,270

vehicles 696 vehicles west bound and 574 vehicles east bound. Based on these results, East Chelsea Street between North Nebraska Avenue and North 12th Street does not appear to be experiencing a speeding problem and has been dropped from the SLL.

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Need and Recommendation 5. Replace fencing around basketball court in Plymouth Playground with coated (Black) fencing.

Plymouth playground is in need of improvement. It is used by the area residents and by others who come to participate in sports activities. Replacement of the fence will impact the area positively.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department will meet with the community to determine the needs and determine if fencing can be done out of budgeted funds.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation is working with the community on a master plan, which will include the determination of replacing the fencing.

Need and Recommendation 6. Improve medians.

- a. Cut down dead trees, plant new Oaks on Woodrow between Columbus Drive and Warren Avenue (2600 and 2700 blocks);
- b. Euclid Avenue between N. Boulevard and Massachusetts Avenue (500 and 600 blocks);
- c. Warren Avenue between N. Boulevard and Massachusetts Avenue (500 and 600 blocks). The trees in the medians are in need of trimming and new trees need to be added. Again, this is for the over appearance of the area. We need to promote a healthier, friendlier environment through our parks and roadways.
- d. Columbus Drive and Ola Avenue are also in need of trees to improve the appearance of this area.

Response to a, b, c, d: From Jim Pinkney, Division Manager, Clean City, 931-2143. Clean City and the Parks and Recreation will investigate and take the appropriate action.

Update to a, b, c, d: From Jim Pinkney, Division Manager, Clean City, 931-2143. Clean City is in progress of making necessary improves to these medians.

Need and Recommendation 11. Larger Community Center in Tampa Heights.

A larger community center is requested for the Tampa Heights area with individual rooms for recreational and sports activities, performing arts, meeting rooms, larger events, etc.

We already have the Robles Park Community Center. However, this center is limited in space and is an open area, which limits the use of the building. When the community holds meetings at the center, we must compete with the sounds and activities of the kids or with other events. Also, we need additional space to accommodate the large number of young people who live in the neighborhood. With the 2000 Census reporting that there are around four thousand young people between the ages of zero to twenty-one, the need for larger space for youth activities is very pressing.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department will be looking at the feasibility of putting a center in the area through the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which is being developed for FY07 and FY08.