

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

---

**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  
**Contact Person:** Palmetto Beach Community Association, Inc.  
605 Bermuda Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33605  
Phone: (813) 972-9800, Ext. 13 (w)  
Phone: (813) 368-5225 (cell)  
Email: Vince@rentnroll.com

**Need and Recommendation 1. Set up funds for on-site attendant at DeSoto Park**

DeSoto Park is located on 26<sup>th</sup> Street. The DeSoto Park Master Plan implementation should include funding to provide for security 24 hours a day/7 days a week. A Parks Service Attendant or Ranger is needed to secure the investment in the park at all times. The Recreation Department will only provide activity supervision. We want proactive after-hours coverage for the park to prevent illegal dumping, littering, trash build-up, vandalism, and loitering, etc.

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation is currently reviewing the practice of having a Parks Operation Specialist living on park land.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Our review is continuing and security has increased patrol in the park.

**Need and Recommendation 3. Create a beach/shoreline on Palmetto Beach at Desoto Park.**

We would like to request a beach/shoreline for people who would like to canoe/kayak in McKay Bay. In the past, there was a beach/shoreline, where people used to swim and sun bathe. The DeSoto Park Master Plan implementation should include design and funding to restore a portion of the shoreline to its original state.

The Palmetto Beach Community Association, Inc. requested this last year, when the Master Plan was being finalized and the community was asked for input. Any change is an improvement over all the concrete dumped there by a previous trailer park owner, but the shoreline change, as designed and funded, does not look natural to the environment. Palmetto Beach has a beach-type shoreline.

We ask for just a small strip of beach, where there is no seawall or created tidal pools. This is the only true shoreline restoration and therefore our association is requesting that a beach be created, where some shoreline is scheduled.

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Historical information indicates that the natural shoreline was a coastal wetland/mangrove swamp. If there even was a beach it would have been man-made and would have had to be constantly nourished. The mud flat soil consistency of shorelines is not conducive to sand density and would be absorbed into the mud-flat material. Furthermore, the environmental agencies would not permit sand replacement on this strip of coastal habitat.

#### **Need and Recommendation 4. Bermuda Boulevard beautification and completion of bike path.**

- a. **The bike path is incomplete from the Licata Bridge (south), to DeSoto Park (north).**
- b. *Requesting beautification of Bermuda Boulevard.*
- c. **Replace/repair seawall with added sidewalk-greenway trail.**
- d. *Reduce occasions of speeders via speed bumps, humps, or tables.*
- e. **Eliminate illegal construction in McKay Bay.**
- f. *Replace sidewalk on West Side of Gordon Street and Davis Street.*

**Response to a:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. We are working on this with the city's Transportation Division to provide a bike lane on Bermuda Boulevard.

**Update to a:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department is currently working with Transportation on the potential bike path. Landscaping/beautification will then be considered depending on the outcome of the bike path project. Conceptual plans have been prepared for the community review and inspection.

**Response to c:** From Jim Burnside, Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8054. The consultant is still studying the problem areas and working on the report of recommended solutions for repair and the estimated costs. We hope to see the final report by the end of this fiscal year.

**Update to c:** From Jim Burnside, Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8054. The consultant has provided a draft report and we are waiting for the go-ahead to set up a Public Meeting.

**Response to e:** From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department is communicating with the Tampa Port Authority, the Hillsborough Environmental Protection Agency, and the Florida Marine Patrol our concerns with regards to the houseboat and crab shacks that are located east of the seawall on Bermuda Boulevard. On 4/26/06, the two-story houseboat in McKay Bay was destroyed by a fire.

**Update to e:** From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department will continue to communicate with the Tampa Port Authority, the Hillsborough Environmental Protection Commission, Florida Fish and Game, and the Florida Marine Patrol regarding concerns relative to the crab shacks that are located east of the seawall on Bermuda Boulevard. We will be attending the meeting with all of these agencies sponsored by the Palmetto Beach Civic Association on December 5, 2006 to specifically discuss the crab shacks. Code Enforcement did contact John Barrios with Construction Services and the city does not permit submerged lands and they typically refer such request to the Tampa Port Authority.

**Need and Recommendation 5. Comprehensive neighborhood plan/zoning study for Palmetto Beach.**

**A comprehensive neighborhood plan should be done in/for Palmetto Beach. To make the neighborhood an attractive place for investment, careful proactive planning is needed. We feel a zoning study is needed on the entire makeup of the neighborhood's residential area is needed. This study along with last year's request for a zoning study for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street corridor, would give a more complete view of the project. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Street study will have to be changed due to the cul-de-sac dead-end that it creates. Also, the six-lane 20<sup>th</sup> Street road project, when completed, will prompt changes as well. An economic study has already been requested for several years now in anticipation of the East Tampa plan that was finally announced last year. A city/county (as appropriate) and community team is needed to facilitate with the planning requirements.**

**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 conditions, 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's Land Development Coordination (LDC) 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.

**Response:** From Gloria Moreda, Land Development Coordination (LDC) Manager, Business and Housing Development , 274-8406. The LDC is in the process of taking a whole new approach to zoning in the city. We are beginning with the test area in 40<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. That project will take about 1 ½ years to complete. The result will be a model for the rest of the city. LDC does not have the staff level to complete a Palmetto Beach overlay at this time.

The community should be encouraged to get involved in the Comprehensive Plan update so that specific goals/objectives/policies could be drafted for the Palmetto Beach Neighborhood. The Comprehensive Plan update is being completed by the Planning Commission. Citizens should request to speak with Michele Ogilvie or Terry Cullen at 272-5940. Michele and Terry can advise the citizen of any upcoming public meetings regarding the plan update. Keep in mind that the Comprehensive Plan guides the future growth, development, and overall identity of our city. It is comprised of various elements, including transportation, housing, land use, and coastal management. Citizens should be and are strongly encouraged to participate. More voices help shape a more well-rounded, diverse, and culturally rich city.

#### **Need and Recommendation 6. Need defining of separation wall.**

**Location:** East side of new roadway referred to as 20<sup>th</sup> Street, from the intersection with 22<sup>nd</sup> Street on the South to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street on the North.

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

**Response:** From Nina Mabileau, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. As indicated in previous years, the 20<sup>th</sup> Street roadway project and the associated public rights-of-way are under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The FDOT has no plans to construct a wall along the eastern right-of-way line of 20<sup>th</sup> Street. FDOT can be contacted directly at (813) 975-6000.

The City of Tampa cannot justify the cost of constructing a wall unless it was warranted as part of a city roadway project. To-date, 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 every year in the hope that one will emerge that would be able to fund the construction of a wall or fence in this area.

#### **Need and Recommendation 8. Bus Shelter.**

**The community needs a bus shelter on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Harper Street. There are many people who use the city bus in the Palmetto Beach community, which is a main stop. It is sad to see them waiting for a bus in the rain, cold and windy days, especially when this is their only means of transportation. This would give them some protection, while waiting for a bus.**

**Response:** From Nina Mabillean, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Almost two years ago on May 3, 2004, the city wrote a letter forwarding your request for a shelter at the above requested location to our community partner that handles public transit in our area, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART). An inquiry as to the status of your request was made on May 5, 2006 to Mr. Les Weakland, Project Manager at HART, 223-6831. Mr. Weakland responded that the HART staff has been working with the Palmetto Beach Community Association on potential route changes in this area and met with them just last month. As a result, HART is making an assessment of a Detour Routing that this group suggested to better provide bus access through the neighborhood. HART plans to implement this routing on a temporary basis to evaluate the effectiveness. The routing is scheduled to start on or before March 26<sup>th</sup> and for the next couple of months, HART will identify appropriate bus stop locations and review potential sites for stop and shelter placement. A Public Notice handout will be distributed on buses and placed on the HART website. HART will also attend the next community meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> to continue the discussion of options for bus service in this area.

#### **Need and Recommendation 9. Marquee at DeSoto Park.**

**The Palmetto Beach community would like a marquee placed at DeSoto Park (DeSoto Park, 26<sup>th</sup> Street). The sign can be used to announce activities at DeSoto Park, association meetings, crimewatch, etc. A banner or poster are always damaged by the weather and can't be read while driving by DeSoto Park.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation has an approved sign package and it does not include marquee signs. A new sign will be installed in accordance with our new sign standards.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. DeSoto Park is on the list to receive a neighborhood sign in fiscal year 2007, but it will not be a marquee sign.

#### **Need and Recommendation 11. Flag Pole at DeSoto Park.**

**Requesting installation of a flagpole at DeSoto Park (DeSoto Park, 26<sup>th</sup> Street). Would like to have a flag waving in the wind at the park and show they are proud to be American citizens of the United States. It would be important for the community and veterans who live in Palmetto Beach.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department generally does not install flag poles at our parks. The department will further evaluate this request and respond back to the requesting party via mail.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Staff is currently assessing the area and may install flag pole if feasible.

#### **Need and Recommendation 12. Repainting of DeSoto Park Pavilion.**

**The DeSoto Park (DeSoto Park, 26<sup>th</sup> Street) Pavilion needs to be repainted inside and outside.**

**This needs to be done to compliment all the new work done at DeSoto Park. It will look nicer and be more inviting to the park patrons.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will look into getting the building on the painting list for next year to match the appearance of the park.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Project is not on the FY06 list of painting projects currently in process, but will be added to the FY07 list and will paint the building if enough funding is available.

#### **Need and Recommendation 13. Retention Pond or culvert in front of Pavilion to correct the overflow of swimming pool.**

**Installation of a retention pond or culvert is needed to drain standing water coming in from the pool water in front of the entrance of the DeSoto Park Pavilion building on the north side of the building. This is also a problem when it rains.**

**Since the pool was installed, there is a water problem when it rains. The water is not draining off and it floods in front of the entrance to the pavilion on the north side of the building. The grassy area holds too much water and needs to be corrected where water will drain off the property and not flood the area. When the rainy season ensues, it will cause major problems during the summer programs for children at DeSoto Park.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department has worked on various low lying areas, but will investigate further during the summer rains.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Remedial efforts are in process.

**Need and Recommendation 14. Evaluate and correct turning signals at various locations.**

**East and West directional turn signals at the intersection of E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.**

**The wait time when trying to make turns is delayed sometimes for several minutes, due to the traffic flow, especially during the rush hours.**

**Response:** From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. The above requested location is 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 15. Evaluate and correct turning signals.**

**East and West directional turn signals at E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**The wait time when trying to make turns at this intersection is delayed sometimes for several minutes, due to the traffic flow, especially during the rush hours. There have also been numerous accidents at this intersection.**

**Response:** Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. The above requested location is 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 16. Evaluate and correct turning signals.**

**East and West directional turn signals at the intersection of N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street and E. Hillsborough Avenue.**

**Due to the high traffic flow on both N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street and E. Hillsborough Avenue, the wait time when trying to make turns is delayed sometimes for several minutes, especially during the rush hours.**

**Response:** From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. The above requested location is 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.

This page left blank intentionally.