

**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 4. Implement the Tampa Heights Neighborhood Plan that was adopted by Tampa City Council by Resolution 2003-237 on February 20, 2003.

The boundaries of Tampa Heights as identified in the Plan are: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the north, North Boulevard and the Hillsborough River on the west, Nebraska Avenue on the east, and Scott and Cass Streets on the south.

Implementation would include, but in no way limited to: Assessment of the neighborhood using a GIS that shows all the physical aspects of Tampa Heights, including brick streets, trees, parks, affordable and market rate housing, social services facilities, commercial properties, vacant properties, type of businesses at various locations, projected projects, fire stations, schools, drainage system, sewage lines etc., and other such infrastructure – those that are fully operational and those that need repair. Other aspects of the plan include creation of a central business village at Columbus, Florida & Tampa Streets. This should be an inclusive process that teaches neighborhood residents how to participate. We are asking for seed dollars in the amount of \$10,000.00 to help with resident participation. The neighborhood will commit to identifying matching funds and developing collaborative efforts with other partners.

For five years, the residents of Tampa Heights worked with the City of Tampa and the Hillsborough City-County Planning Commission to develop a Neighborhood Plan. This was the first neighborhood plan to be adopted by Tampa City Council almost two years ago. Assistance from the city departments will implement the Plan that carefully followed the City of Tampa's guidelines for such a process. Tampa Heights is the pacesetter in this area and other neighborhoods are looking at our community as an example and a guide for addressing their neighborhood desires along with the plans of the city and other jurisdictions that play a part in their areas.

Response: From Michael Hatchett, Urban Development Manager, The Heights & Central Park, 274-7972. The city recognizes and appreciates the community's commitment to implement the Tampa Heights Neighborhood Plan. Personnel from various city departments are currently conversing with the leadership of the Tampa Heights Civic Association to identify development priorities from within the Plan and to create a feasible implementation strategy.

Update: From Michael Hatchett, Urban Development Manager, The Heights & Central Park, 274-7972. Personnel from various city departments continue to work with the leadership of the Tampa Heights Civic Association to identify development priorities from within the Tampa Heights Plan and to create a feasible implementation strategy.

Response: From Gloria Moreda, Land Development Coordination (LDC) Manager, Business and Housing Development , 274-8406. Tampa Height has been asking LDC to develop a Conservation Overlay District for over a year. It may be possible to at least begin gathering information/data on the neighborhood and begin the dialog on the neighborhood's expectation. This task is necessary in developing the Form Based Zoning model for the city. Tampa Heights represents the classic traditional neighborhood.

Update: From Gloria Moreda, Land Development Coordination (LDC) Manager, Business and Housing Development , 274-8406. Due to demands on our division the collection of data has not began. We anticipate the process will start by mid 2007.

Need and Recommendation 7. Plant street trees.

Location: Columbus Drive from Ola Avenue to Florida Avenue (200 block West through the 100 block East).

We realize the properties right at the intersection of Columbus Drive, Florida Avenue and Tampa Street have no curbs, but we would like the city to add trees along those properties to enhance the commercial viability of the properties, while not reducing their accessibility to any great degree. Landscaping will help to attract new businesses and continued revitalization of our historic district.

Response: From Michael Hatchett, Urban Development Manager, The Heights & Central Park, 274-7972. The city recognizes that the revitalization of Columbus Drive is an element of the Tampa Heights Neighborhood Plan. Personnel from various city departments are currently conversing with the leadership of the Tampa Heights Civic Association to identify development priorities from within the Plan and to create a feasible implementation strategy. In the event that this activity emerges as a development priority, the city will seek available resources for implementation.

Update: From Michael Hatchett, Urban Development Manager, The Heights & Central Park, 274-7972. As part of the recently approved Heights Project, the Heights Developer will be widening Columbus Drive to three lanes from N. Boulevard to N. Tampa Street. Trees and/or other streetscape amenities will likely be planned as part of this project.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation Department along with the Clean City Division will investigate and take appropriate action. Sight lines have to be considered for vehicles safety. Parks and Recreation and Clean City Division do not landscape and plant shrubs on rights-of-way.

Need and Recommendation 8. Repair of drainage system at corner of southern corner of Columbus Drive and Morgan Street.

This location does not drain and water settles there even when it is not raining. It is right next to Lee Elementary School and many of the children in the area walk to and from school and have to walk out into the streets to avoid the standing water. Also, avoiding getting wet is challenging because this is where parents drop-off and pick-up students for school.

Response: From Michael Burwell, Supervisor, Stormwater, 274-7864. This drainage problem has been caused by continuously overlaying the original brick pavement with asphalt. The original drainage had widely spaced inlets and long overland flow lengths but the repaving has blocked this flow, causing nuisance ponding. Unfortunately, there are no nearby stormwater systems which can be extended to relieve this problem. The nearest system is over 1000' away and it is unclear if the flow could be directed to it due to the lack of vertical relief. This is also a county road, making modifications to the road surface problematic.

Need and Recommendation 9. Relocate sewage station.

Relocate sewage station at the corner of Adalee and Avon.

As the sewage station is being repaired, include whatever process is needed to address the foul smell that comes from the sewage station at the corner of Adalee and Avon, on the southwestern corner of Robles Park. Explore relocating the sewage station. In the meantime, landscape this corner to camouflage the unit and pipes.

Thank you, the City, for the extensive repairs that are being done to the sewage station at this time. We commend the City for its ongoing maintenance that has been done since the station was placed at this location. However, the foul smell has continued over the years despite the ongoing repairs. This is very disgusting when using the park for exercising, and when walking on the nearby streets. Additionally, the immediate neighbors complain about the smell and cannot sit on their porches when the wind blows in a certain direction.

Response: From Charlie Lynch, Wastewater Planning and Maintenance Management Supervisor, Wastewater, 274-8916. The wastewater pumping station at Adalee Street and Avon Avenue is currently being repaired. During these repairs, there have been times when the odor control system has had to be placed out of service. As these repairs continue, there will be additional periods when the system must be shut-down. We anticipate the repairs will be complete by the end of June 2006.

The repairs to the station include the installation of new hatch covers that will reduce the escape of odors, reducing turbulence within the wet well, and cleaning and lining the gravity pipelines upstream of the station. These improvements should significantly reduce odors around that station. Should odor problems persist following the repairs, please report the problem to Howard F. Curren Treatment Plant at 247-3451.

In order to relocate the station, several major pipelines would have to be reconstructed. Property for the station would also have to be acquired. Due to the high cost associated with these items, it is not feasible to relocate the station. To help blend the station with the surrounding park, the department will explore options for the installation of landscaping.

Update: From Charlie Lynch, Wastewater Planning and Maintenance Management Supervisor, Wastewater, 274-8916. The repairs to the wastewater pumping station at Adalee Street and Avon Avenue were completed in September 2006. As we have previously indicated, the repairs should reduce the odors around the station. Should odor problems persist, please report the problem to Howard F. Curren Treatment Plant at 247-3451.

The Wastewater Department is also working with the Parks Department to develop a plan for the installation of landscaping to help blend the station with the surrounding park. If you have any questions, please contact me at 274-8916.

Need and Recommendation 10. Add a second dumpster.

Add a second dumpster and place an attractive fence around the dumpsters on the northern end of Robles Park Community Center parking lot.

The Parks Department already maintains a smaller size dumpster at this location that is for the use of the community center. However, many others dump trash in the dumpster and often times outside the dumpster, leaving this section of the park unattractive. Adding another dumpster would help with the dumping around the area and a fence will make the site more attractive.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department will investigate the need for an additional dumpster at the community center.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The existing dumpster is adequate for park use and it is not intended for neighborhood use. Staff is considering removing dumpster and hauling trash off-site. In the meantime, the area will be posted for no dumping.

Response: From Varghese Jacob, Solid Waste Administrative Chief, 348-1104. The service frequency or the dumpster size may need to be adjusted based on the need.

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