

CITY OF TAMPA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2007-2008  
December 12, 2007

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**Block Club:** Area I

**Neighborhoods:** Florence Villa, Beasley, Grant Park, Oak Park, Northview Hills, Galloway Heights, Northeast Community, and Highland Pines.

**Boundaries:** Sligh Avenue/Hillsborough River (north); Adamo Drive (south); Tampa By-Pass Canal (east); 40th Street (west).

**Chairperson/  
Submitted by:** Ms. Rosalie Jones  
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**Need and Recommendation 1. Improvements for Williams Park Center/Playground**

- a. Drainage system for Williams Park Playground/northwest quadrant.
- b. Expand Williams Park activity center by adding an office and an exercise room. Your response was that we had an accordion divider. This is incorrect. We do not have a divider. Please reconsider this request.
- c. *Purchase computers and exercise equipment for Williams Park activity center.*
- d. Install wrought iron fencing and gate on back parking lot of playground.
- e. Resurface Chelsea Avenue.
- f. Install traffic calming devices from 40<sup>th</sup> to 50<sup>th</sup> Streets, on Chelsea Avenue.
- g. Complete sidewalk repairs on Ashland Drive, John Bell Drive, Curtis Street and portions of Atwater Drive.

The playground's back parking lot is on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Chelsea Avenue runs east and west. Williams Park activity center is located at 4362 East Osborne Avenue.

**Proper leveling to the track is needed because when it rains, the track is under water for days. Resurfacing is needed to help water run off into the retention pond.**

**There are three (3) schools in close proximity of the center. Computers are needed for an after-school training and tutoring program. When exercise classes are in session, children do not have enough space for their inside activities, nor is there adequate space for game tables to be used during this time.**

**Response to a:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Some drainage work has been done. We will continue to resolve this issue.

**Update to a:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has filled and graded the area where the drainage problem occurred and will continue to monitor this area.

**Response to b:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Williams Park Playground Activity Center was opened in 2003. We will work with the community to determine needs.

**Update to b:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. There is no funding to expand the Playground Activity Center at this time. If funding is available in the future the department will reevaluate the expansion.

**Response to d:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The fencing will be installed in FY08.

**Update to d:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The fencing project is a funded project in the FY08 and we will work with the community to determine the proper location and style of fencing/bollards.

**Response to e:** From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. As we indicated last year, Chelsea Avenue from 40<sup>th</sup> Street to 50<sup>th</sup> Street is the responsibility of the Hillsborough County Maintenance Division, because it is classified as a Collector Roadway leading from the county into the city limits. The city has no jurisdiction as to the condition of this roadway. There are many other similar roadways within the city limits where the county is responsible for the pavement through an Interlocal Agreement for Maintenance with the city. Ms. Rosalie Jones should call Mr. Rob Swain with the Hillsborough County Maintenance Division directly at 307-1766 to formally request that he conduct a survey to determine if the road needs resurfacing, or she can call the Project Management Office at 272-5912 and/or leave a message for him to call her back.

**Response to f:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The East Tampa Development Department approached the Transportation Division in January 2007 concerning traffic calming along several locations in the East

Tampa Redevelopment Overlay District. East Chelsea Street between North 40<sup>th</sup> Street and North John Bell Drive was one such location.

As part of the traffic calming process, each City of Tampa department that may be affected by the traffic calming project is requested to review the proposed site for any near or future conflicts. Tampa Fire Rescue objected to the installation of speed tables along this location. Historically, the Transportation Division has respected the concerns and conflicts that other departments may have with roadway projects.

Currently, the Transportation Division is working to develop possible alternative traffic calming solutions suitable for use along East Chelsea Street between North 40<sup>th</sup> Street and North John Bell Drive and amenable to Tampa Fire Rescue.

**Update to f:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Alternative traffic calming measures and/or safety enhancements are still under review by the Traffic Studies Section.

**Response to g:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Work has been scheduled for the following locations under the FY06 Restoration Contract, PW 5268, which was delayed from last year. The requested locations are still scheduled to be done and should be completed by October 2007. (We anticipate the need for additional restoration work on Ashland in the FY07 season.)

WO 6704	Ashland: Osborne to Dead-end
WO 6705	Ashland: Ashmore to Curtis
WO 6706	Atwater: Chelsea to Cayuga
WO 6707	Atwater: Cayuga to 48 <sup>th</sup>
WO 6708	John Bell: Chelsea to Cayuga
WO 6709	John Bell: Cayuga to Curtis
WO 6710	Curtis: John Bell to 48 <sup>th</sup>
WO 6711	Curtis: 48 <sup>th</sup> to Ashland

**Update to g:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Work orders are complete under the FY06 Restoration Contract, PW 5268.

**Contact Person/** Ms. Betty J. Bell  
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**Need and Recommendation 2. Install speed tables for Highland Pines Area (21<sup>st</sup> Avenue)**

These tables are to be installed on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Dodge Street, 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Star Street and 46<sup>th</sup> Street. The streets named above are the areas that impact the park. Star Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street are the main entrances to the park gates. These speed tables are needed because there have been approximately five (5) accidents involving children in these areas. Children are seen running back and forth across 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue entering and exiting the park.

The people of Highland Pines, are concerned and have been trying for several years to obtain speed tables for safety reasons for our children and the community of Highland Pines.

**Response:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The East Tampa Development Department approached the Transportation Division in January 2007 concerning traffic calming along several locations in the East Tampa Redevelopment Overlay District. East 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue between North 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Melbourne Boulevard was one such location.

As part of the traffic calming process, each City of Tampa department that may be affected by the traffic calming project is requested to review the proposed site for any near or future conflicts. Tampa Fire Rescue objected to the installation of speed tables along this location. Historically, the Transportation Division has respected the concerns and conflicts that other departments may have with roadway projects.

Currently, the Transportation Division is working to develop possible alternative traffic calming solutions suitable for use along East 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue between North 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Melbourne Boulevard and amenable to Tampa Fire Rescue.

**Update:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Solar Powered Radar Display Speed Signs, upgraded street signs and street markings are the traffic calming measures that were proposed to the community through Ms. Bell and are acceptable to Tampa Fire Rescue. Work request have been submitted to install all the signs and markings as related to this project.

### **Need and Recommendation 3. Equipment and Picnic Shelters**

For several years, we have requested three (3) picnic shelters at the Highland Pines Park. To date, we have only one (1). Families need these shelters for picnics, birthday parties and social gatherings. Two (2) more barbecue grills are also needed. We have a beautiful and spacious park what seriously lacks upgraded amenities.

The swing set at Highland Pines Park is obsolete and there are no kiddie seats for small children. Young mothers and grandmothers visit the park with toddlers and need the swings for the younger children. The jungle gym slide is old and needs to be replaced because of the wear and tear, and age of this equipment.

**The sand at the Highland Pines Park is very dirty and needs to be replaced with a foam covering. These items have been requested for at least five (5) years.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will plan to replace the playground equipment and add swings in FY08. The play area surfacing will be replaced with engineered wood fiber by September 2007.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The playground equipment and engineered wood fiber has been replaced through the Kaboom Program. A tot swing was not included in this project but a swing will be added in FY08.

#### **Need and Recommendation 4. Jogging Path**

**The jogging path is in need of mile markers and equipment. The stretching equipment was removed during the remodeling of the Highland Pines Recreation Center. We have several walkers and joggers that use that path daily for health reasons. Please replace with updated equipment.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The fitness equipment has been ordered and will be installed by September 2007. The mile markers will be installed by December 2007.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The fitness equipment has arrived and will be installed in January 2008. The mile markers located on the path will be put in after the path gets resurfaced, which is planned for December 2007.

#### **Need and Recommendation 5. Lights**

**The lights on the jogging trail are dim and non-existent in some areas of the path. The company that was giving light in that area (Nuts & Bolts) was removed for the building of Oak Park Elementary School. There is a need for improved lighting for the early morning walkers and joggers.**

**The entire community of Highland Pines needs upgraded lighting. The lights are dim or obsolete. We are really afraid to venture outside at night because of the lack of lights and criminal activities. We have made this request more than once.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The existing park lighting will be checked out and repaired accordingly. A lighting assessment will be done to see if additional security lighting is warranted.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The jogging trail is open from dawn to dusk and the security lighting is not for the trail. The department will do a lighting assessment on the park to determine if additional security lighting is needed.