

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

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/Hillsborough River (north); McKay Bay (south); 40th Street (east); 15th Street (west).

Chairperson: Mr. Vince Ficarotta
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Submitted by: Ms. Kelley Gatta-Arfin (Secretary)
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Need and Recommendation 2. Neighborhood Plan

A comprehensive neighborhood plan should be done for Palmetto Beach to make our neighborhood a more attractive place for investment. This careful, proactive planning should include a zoning study of the entire makeup of the neighborhood residential areas to complete last year's request of a zoning study for the 22nd Street corridor. This corridor will have to change, due to the cul-de-sac dead-end of 22nd Street. An economic study has already been requested for several years.

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 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 from 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.

Need and Recommendation 5. Renovation work at Desoto Park pavilion

The Pavilion at DeSoto Park (DeSoto Park and 26th Street) needs to be renovated as follows:

- a. The roof needs to be replaced.*
- b. The south side needs a retention pond or culvert to be installed to help drain off standing water from the north side entrance of the building. When it rains, the sidewalk is covered in ankle-deep water. The grass retains too much water during the rainy season. In summer, it becomes a major problem with the summer programs and the children who attend these programs. The children have to walk through the water to get inside the building, and then they have wet feet in an air-conditioned building.**
- c. More lighting is needed near the stairs on the north side of building. Even with the new lights in place at the pavilion, the park is still dark in many areas and it is very dangerous for residents who come to the park in the evenings.*

Response to b: From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. The Stormwater Department will offer advice if it is needed on means to reduce this problem.

Update to b: From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. Presently, no one has requested assistance on relieving this problem.

Response to b: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks

and Recreation Department will discuss the issue with the Stormwater Department to deliver an appropriate approach to the issue.

Update to b: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has graded and filled the low lying areas where water has been collecting. The department will continue to monitor this problem and take appropriate actions when needed.

Need and Recommendation 6. Community Signage

Palmetto Beach Community would like signs to be installed with the name Palmetto Beach Community, the year (1867) and our logo at the south end of our community (Tampa city limits) and at the north end (Adamo Drive and 22nd Street).

Our community would like to be recognized just like all the other communities who have signs installed.

We are still waiting for our trees and shrubs to be installed, and we have not seen the current design that is supposed to be in the process of being drawn up.

Response: From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Upon a request from any Neighborhood, the Transportation Division agrees to install two (2) free neighborhood signs. Additional signs may be requested but would require payment of \$250 per installation.

In 1992, the Palmetto Beach Neighborhood received its two (2) free neighborhood signs. The first sign was located on North 22nd Street between east Long Street and the Crosstown Expressway exit ramp for viewing by southbound traffic. The second sign was located in the apex between South 22nd Street and South Bermuda Boulevard for viewing by northbound traffic. After a field visit was performed to inventory the two existing sign, they were found missing. A work request will be submitted to re-install the two (2) free neighborhood signs at the same locations indicated above. The design of these Neighborhood signs has already been set and cannot be changed and includes a white background with a green border and a black legend that states “Welcome to Palmetto Beach Neighborhood”.

Please note that upon request, additional signs may also be installed, but the neighborhood must pay for them at a cost of \$250 per sign installation. They must also secure an Amended Neighborhood Sign Agreement from the Transportation Division and submit the amended agreement back to the Transportation Division with a motion from the neighborhood board supporting the sign installation and agreeing to payment thereof. They shall also include their preferred installation locations for the Transportation Division’s approval. Once mutually agreeable installation locations are selected, the Transportation Division will create a work request on behalf of the neighborhood to have the additional signs installed. Next, the Transportation Division will forward the following materials to a neighborhood representative for their approval, signature and initialing respectively: 1) a cover letter, 2) the amended sign agreement with Article V sign location completed, and 3) a copy of the work request(s). Once approved, signed and initialed, these documents must be returned to the

Transportation Division with a check in an amount equal to the number of signs multiplied by \$250 (i.e. 2 signs X \$250 = \$500).

Update: From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Work requests to re-install "Welcome to Palmetto Beach" neighborhood signs at their originally submitted and approved locations have been processed and are under review prior to submittal for installation. Because these two missing signs are "the two free neighborhood signs", Palmetto Beach is not required to pay the \$250 each.

Need and Recommendation 7. Bus Shelters and turn signal

The community of Palmetto Beach is in need of bus shelters. We also require a turn signal at 22nd Street and Durham Street.

These shelters would help protect our residents from the weather, while waiting at the Hartline bus stop.

We have requested that DOT install a turn signal here, but DOT said we do not qualify. If this turn signal were installed, it would help our residents to turn safely and not have to merge in traffic trying to turn. Traffic on 20th Street is very busy and the people drive fast.

Response: From Nina Mabileau, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The city has written another letter forwarding your request to HARTline. Please contact Ms. Lynda Mifsud at HARTline, 223-6831, extension 2210, or email her at mifsud@hartline.org to follow-up on this request in the future. The city's only involvement will be later on with permitting of these structures for placement in the public right-of-way by a HARTline contractor.

Response: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. The above requested location at Causeway Blvd and Durham Street is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa. If FDOT has already responded that this location does not qualify, there must not be enough traffic turning movements to warrant the turn signal. We suggest that you check with FDOT periodically to see if the situation changes. The contact person is Mr. Anthony Chaumont at 975-6250. Please call him directly with your concerns.

Need and Recommendation 8. Desoto Park Information Marquee

The Palmetto Beach Community would like a marquee placed at DeSoto Park at DeSoto Park and 26th Street.

The sign can be used to announce activities at DeSoto Park, association meetings, crime watch, etc. Banners and posters are always damaged by the weather and cannot be read while driving by the park.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department typically does not use marquee signs at our neighborhood parks. We will work with the Community Association to see if there is another alternative such as a kiosk for this type of information.

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Need and Recommendation 9. Evaluate and correct turning signals

Request east and west directional turn signals at the intersection of North 34th Street and East Hillsborough Avenue.

Due to the high traffic flow on both North 34th Street and East 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.