

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

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

This request is for assistance from the appropriate city offices to 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 be limited to: Assessment of the neighborhood using a Geographic Information System 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, different types 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 Drive, Florida Avenue and Tampa Street. This should be an inclusive process that teaches neighborhood residents how to participate in the process. 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 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, Manager, Old Police Site CRA, Urban Development, 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 working with the Tampa Heights Stewardship Committee to identify development priorities within the plan and to create a feasible implementation strategy.

Update: From Michael Hatchett, Manager, Old Police Site CRA, Urban Development, 274-7972. The city recognizes and appreciates the community's commitment to implement the Tampa Heights Neighborhood Plan. Over the course of fiscal years 2006 and 2007, personnel from Growth Management and Development Services (GMDS) provided technical assistance to the Tampa Heights Stewardship Committee to identify development priorities within the plan and to help the Committee create a feasible implementation strategy. According to GMDS, as of 12-6-07, the Stewardship Committee has not responded with its priorities.

Need and Recommendation 9. Address smell from sewage station or relocate sewage station

As the sewage station is being repaired, include whatever process is needed to address the foul odor that comes from the sewage station at the corner of Adalee Street and Avon Avenue on the southwestern corner of Robles Park. Explore relocating the sewage station. We commend the city for the work being done; however, the smell remains and is overwhelming in that area.

We thank the city for the complete replacement of the old sewage system station. We also commend the city for the ongoing maintenance that has been done since the station was placed at

this location. However, the foul smell still continues, despite the change of the entire system. This is very disgusting when utilizing the park and the nearby streets. Additionally, the immediate neighbors complain about the smell. They cannot sit on their porches because of the odor.

Response: From Charlie Lynch, Professional engineer, Wastewater Department, 274-8916. Wastewater Department has had some minor electrical problems with the odor control system at the Adalee pumping station since the completion of the rehabilitation of the station. These problems have caused the system to shutdown unexpectedly. We are currently repairing these problems so that the system will operate as designed. If odors in the area continue to occur, please report the problem to Howard F. Curren Treatment Plant at 247-3451.

Update: From Charlie Lynch, Professional engineer, Wastewater Department, 274-8916. Wastewater Department has repaired the electrical problems with the odor control system at the Adalee pumping station. If odors in the area continue to occur, please report the problem to Howard F. Curren Treatment Plant at 247-3451.

Need and Recommendation 10. Add a second dumpster at Robles Park

Request a second dumpster and an attractive fence be placed around the dumpster on the northern end of Robles Park Community Center parking lot.

The City of Tampa Parks Department already maintains a small sized 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 Varghese Jacob, Administrative Chief, Solid Waste Department, 348-1104. At the request of the Parks and Recreation Department, number of dumpsters or frequency of pick-up can be adjusted according to the need at that location at any time. Maintaining the area including fencing around the dumpsters is Parks Department's responsibility.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will consider fencing a dumpster enclosure during renovations, and work with the Solid Waste Department to resolve illegal dumping.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The enclosure around the facility dumpster will be installed in FY08.