

**CITY OF TAMPA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2008-2009  
December 17, 2008**

Block Club: Area VI

Neighborhoods: Northeast MacFarland, Old West Tampa, and Ridgewood River.

Boundaries: Columbus Drive (north); Interstate 275 (south), Florida Avenue (east); MacDill Avenue (west).

Chairperson: Mr. Jim Gray, LDO  
1938 W. Main Street  
Tampa, FL 33607  
Phone: (813) 254-1281 (w)  
(813) 895-0033 (cell)  
Email: [BayGray@Juno.com](mailto:BayGray@Juno.com)

Submitted by: Anthony Prieto  
810 W Amelia  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 789-9677 (w)  
(866) 283-7327 (f)  
Email: [aprieto@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:aprieto@tampabay.rr.com)

**1. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Sidewalk Completion** *(Eligible)*

We have requested several times new sidewalks on the North and South sides of Amelia, Frances, and Park from Boulevard to Riverside, North sides of Ross from Boulevard to Ridgewood, East and West sides of Riverside, Ridgewood, and Glenwood from Columbus to Ross, and East and West sides of Poplar from Columbus to Amelia. Some new sidewalks have been put in near new homes.

**Response:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The requested locations are already included in our database for consideration. Plans are to build sidewalk in the Ridgewood River community in FY09; however, exact location has not been determined.

**Update:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Plans are to build sidewalk in the Ridgewood River community along Riverside between Columbus and Amelia – east side and along Amelia between North Boulevard and Glenwood – south side in FY09. Plans cannot be confirmed until prices are received from the contractor.

**2. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Traffic Calming** *(Eligible)*

Traffic needs to be calmed at the following locations: Ridgewood Ave. (Columbus to Ross), Amelia, Frances, and Park Ave. from Boulevard to Ridgewood. We have worked with the Transportation Department since 2003 and have had a traffic study

done by a private company. We have been on the City's list for several years.

**Response:** From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures on local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways, a documented speeding problem must exist. This documentation takes place once the Transportation Division staff conducts a speed study and substantiates the existence of a speeding problem. In rare circumstances, such as an intersection with a documented history of pedestrian accidents, other site specific traffic calming measures may be implemented.

West Amelia Avenue from North Glenwood Drive to North Poplar Avenue was studied in January 2007. The findings indicated that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 33 mph, which is below the minimum qualifying requirement as outlined above. West Frances Avenue from North Glenwood Drive to North Ridgewood Avenue was studied in March 2007. The findings indicated that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 31 mph which is also below the minimum. West Park Avenue from Northern Boulevard to North Glenwood Drive was also last studied a year ago. The findings indicated that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 32 mph on West Park Avenue which is also below the minimum. Because the studies are one year or older, we will request new speed studies on your behalf and the estimated time of completion is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed studies are completed, our findings will be shared with you. If you have not received an update on the speed studies after this 12 week period, please contact us.

North Ridgewood Avenue between West Ross Avenue and West Columbus Drive was submitted as part of the proposed 2008 Traffic Calming Program. During the Traffic Calming Plan development stage, each proposed location is submitted to City of Tampa utility departments such as, Wastewater, Water, Stormwater and Transportation and to the Police and Fire Departments for review. The departmental reviews include reviewing the location for possible project or departmental conflict.

The Fire Department reviewed North Ridgewood Avenue between West Ross Avenue and West Columbus Drive and noted that the location is a main running route into the neighborhood and access to fire hydrants for fire suppression.

The Transportation Division and the Fire Department are working together to find mutually agreeable traffic calming measures that allow fire/rescue equipment unmitigated access and sustained response times while slowing other traffic down. Once the Transportation Division and Fire Department find and test several traffic calming measures and agree to their use, the Transportation Division may reconsider North Ridgewood Avenue between West Ross Avenue and West Columbus Drive for traffic calming during a future traffic calming cycle.

**Update:** From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. On Friday, May 23, 2008, a twenty-four hour speed and volume study was conducted on West Amelia Avenue from North Glenwood Drive to North Poplar Avenue. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed was 33 mph. Based on

the result of this study, West Amelia Avenue between North Glenwood Drive and North Poplar Avenue does not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding situation.

On Wednesday, June 4, 2008, a twenty-four hour speed and volume study was conducted on West Frances Avenue from North Glenwood Drive to North Ridgewood Avenue. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed was 30 mph. Based on the result of this study; West Frances Avenue from North Glenwood Drive to North Ridgewood Avenue does not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding situation.

On Tuesday, May 27, 2008, a twenty-four hour speed and volume study was conducted on West Park Avenue from North Boulevard to North Glenwood Drive. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed was 34 mph. Based on the result of this study, West Park Avenue from North Boulevard to North Glenwood Drive does not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding situation.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUEST**

Submitted by: Ms. Janice Williams  
1902 W. Saint Conrad Street  
Tampa, FL 33607  
Phone: (813) 254-3917 (w)  
(813) 431-5245 (cell)

### **3. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Larger Community Center at Rey Park *(Eligible)***

Rey Park Community Center erected in 1955, no longer meets the needs of a growing community. More restrooms are needed to accommodate the hundreds of residents who use the facility on a weekly basis. Greater space and more individual rooms are needed in order to adequately provide educational and recreational activities for the youth, seniors, and the community at large. Rey Park is located at 2301 North Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607.

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. At this time the department does not have funding to expand Rey Park. However, if funding does come available in the future the department will evaluate Rey Park at that time.

**Response:** From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Budget Department, 274-8552. The interim Tampa Museum located at 2306 North Howard Avenue has available meeting space. If interested in reserving a room please contact Dawn Johnson at 274-8698.

Submitted by: Mr. Michael Randolph, Economic Development Director  
West Tampa Community Development Corporation  
1803 North Howard Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33607  
Phone: (813) 254-6297 (w)

4. **NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Funding for the West Tampa Community Development Employment and Business Development Center** (*Eligible*)

The Employment Center assists residents with employment readiness skills and job placement. The Business Center assists residents with developing business plans and provides them with technical support.

**Response:** From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Budget Department, 274-8552. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was received from West Tampa Community Development Corporation. The RFP has been included with other requests submitted through the RFP process and will be taken into consideration for funding.

**Update:** From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Budget Department, 274-8552. The agency was not awarded funds through the review process for FY09 but can reapply for the next allocation.

5. **NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Certification of the West Tampa Community Development Corporation** (*Eligible*)

To serve as a community housing development organization (CHDO). This certification will increase Affordable homes opportunities.

**Response:** From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner III, Housing and Community Development, 274-7998. The City of Tampa supports the W. Tampa CDC application for approval as a HOME Program Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO); a RFP has been received by HCD and is currently being reviewed.

**Update:** From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner III, Housing and Community Development, 274-7998. The agency was not awarded funds through the review process for FY09 but can reapply for the next allocation.

6. **NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Certification of the West Tampa Community Development Corporation** (*Eligible*)

As an enterprise zone corporation to seek funding for eligible enterprise zone programs.

**Response:** From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner III, Housing and Community Development, 274-7998. The City of Tampa supports the West Tampa CDC possibly qualifying to become a Community Contribution Tax Credit recipient. The process is to obtain an application and submit to the Enterprise Zone Coordinator for processing.

As to any other benefits through the Enterprise Zone (EZ), as a non profit organization, West Tampa CDC is limited to possible Building Materials Tax Credits. The EZ benefits are linked to sales and corporate income taxes paid by the applicant asking for a credit or refund.