

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2003-2004
January 6, 2004**

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).

Contact Person: Ms. Lena Young-Green, Chairperson
3406 N. Avon Avenue
Tampa, FL 33603
Phone: 229-3403 (h)

Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association

Submitted by: Mr. Frank Roder
Vice President for Public Relations
Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association
908 E. Louisiana Avenue
Tampa, FL 33603
Phone: 238-1772 (h)
Phone: 794-1876 (w)

Need and Recommendation 1. Nebraska Avenue Project.

Nebraska Avenue serves as a gateway into downtown Tampa and is a principle thoroughfare connecting the neighborhoods of Ybor City, Ybor Heights, Southeast Seminole Heights, Old Seminole Heights, Sulphur Springs, and North Tampa. With the continued construction of I-275, more and more people will be using this vital corridor. All of the above-mentioned neighborhoods have active neighborhood associations and feel the makeover of Nebraska Avenue will provide a needed boost to the continued redevelopment of these neighborhoods, as well as sparking commercial development along Nebraska Avenue.

Last year, the Old Seminole Heights Civic Association, Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association and Ybor Heights Civic Association, in conjunction with a request from Block Club Area III requested the formation of a Nebraska Avenue Task Force, which would include the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the City of Tampa Traffic and Transportation Departments, and the Livable Roadways Committee. This task force was to be charged with planning and implementing the refurbishing of Nebraska Avenue. This included a much long overdue and much needed upgrading of lighting, repaving, and landscaping. Meetings have been held, planning has been implemented and a number of economic redevelopment initiatives for the Nebraska Avenue corridor have been initiated. However, one key group was left off this committee: the neighborhood residents! We request that the neighborhood residents and civic associations be provided an opportunity for input into the makeover of Nebraska Avenue and be included in all aspects of the Nebraska Avenue initiative.

Response: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. The City of Tampa and other local government agencies have long recognized the active civic associations of Old Seminole Heights, Southeast Seminole Heights, Ybor Heights, Ybor City, Sulphur Springs, and North Tampa. These agencies, and any permanent or ad hoc committees that are formed from these agencies, will continue to include and draw from the knowledge and perspectives of the local civic groups. This coordination will occur through neighborhood meetings, public meetings, or the appointment of civic representatives to specific committees.

Response: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The latest information is that FDOT would be willing to incorporate the City's Landscape Plan into their upcoming resurfacing project on Nebraska Avenue. The Parks Department is reviewing the construction drawings for the project, which are 60% completed. The Parks Department plans to determine any necessary revisions to the Landscape Plan after this review. FDOT plans to advertise the project for bid in February 2004 and begin construction in May 2004, finishing in May 2005, then our landscaping would begin. However, the estimated \$300,000 for the Landscape Plan is not currently funded, because we are waiting on FDOT to indicate what funding is available. The proposed Landscape/Irrigation Concept Plan from Hillsborough to Sligh can be viewed by contacting Ms. Nina Mabileau, Project Management Engineer III, at 274-8542.

Update: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The City met with the FDOT on October 29, 2003 to discuss the possible Landscape and Irrigation Plan that could begin no sooner than summer or fall of 2005. Funding for this project is still undetermined. The topics of public notification and input were also discussed at this meeting. The City is conducting internal meetings with staff on project scope and viability. HARTline wishes

to add half a dozen bus shelters along the corridor that would necessitate redesign of the landscaping and irrigation. To-date the neighborhood residents and civic associations have not contacted this office about a 'Nebraska Avenue Task Force' that they may have established.

Need and Recommendation 2. Giddens Park.

Giddens Park, located at the corner of N. 12th Street and E. Giddens Avenue, has served the needs of area residents for over 50 years. Our neighborhood is very appreciative of the many improvements, which have occurred in Giddens Park, over the last year and is very excited about the proposed improvements by Tampa's Green Printing Initiative, in selecting Giddens Park as the first recipient. However, we do continue to request that an addition be added to the existing building (the Kathryn Malone Center) or an additional building being erected to serve the needs of the neighborhood and civic association. At the present time, there is not enough room in the existing building to accommodate the very successful "Create a Legacy" (art and multimedia production), this is presently using the building. We also request signage be placed at the southern entrance of the park at the corner of E. Frierson and N. 12th Street.

We feel that as the park is upgraded, it will continue to enhance neighborhood patronage, as well as providing the necessary facilities to accommodate the large number of people who use the park.

Response: From Pete Burgue, Deputy Director, Recreation Department, 274-7740. The construction of a Playground Activities Center and renovations to existing building will be included in the department's FY04 Capital Improvement Project request.

Response: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks Department, 931-2121. The Parks Department is requesting funding in the FY04 Budget to match the donation from Green Printing.

Update: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department requested funding for the construction of a Playground Activities Center and renovations to the existing building in the department's FY04 Capital Improvement Project Budget request. Funding was not available in the FY04, however funding was received for the Green Printing project. Parks and Recreation will continue to look at funding opportunity to fund the construction of a Playground Activities Center and renovations to the existing building.

Need and Recommendation 3. Lighting (Southeast Seminole Heights).

The lighting in Southeast Seminole Heights is not adequate for the safety of our residents. We strongly urge an upgrade in the lighting throughout the neighborhood. The attached overview of lighting in Southeast Seminole Heights composed by Sherry Simons, one of our civic association board members and chair of the Southeast Seminole Heights vehicle patrol for neighborhood watch, clearly demonstrates the areas in need of lighting upgrades. (See general overview of lighting dated 1/6/03 – Addendum's "A-1, A-2, A-3 and A-4").

Response: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. The Tampa Lighting Initiative program will provide upgrades or replacements for almost all fixtures throughout the City of Tampa. When the program was first approved it was anticipated that TECO would need 4 to 7 years to complete the project. The first phase of the project will begin in West Tampa. The community of Seminole Heights will be addressed in the near future. When the community is scheduled for the project, an assessment will be made of the existing poles and fixtures and any additional poles and fixtures will be installed at that time.

Update: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. The Tampa Lighting Initiative has completed the first phase. (West Tampa) A total of 727 have been installed in the following grids. Grids 102, 103, 112, 113, 114, 121, 122, 123 and 124 (See attached Addendum's C-I, C-II). Phase II (East Tampa) Grids 84, 85 and 97 have been completed in East Tampa. (See attached Addendum's C-I, C-II)

As of October 25, 2003 a total of 991 lights have been installed in Phase I and Phase II. The project continues. This project will take approximately 4 to 7 years to complete.

Response: From Calvin Thornton, Transportation Planning, 274-7884. Better lighting is planned for the entire City of Tampa. Please direct your request to Tampa Electric Company and Tampa Police Department – Crime Prevention Unit – CPTED Specialists for scheduling. The Tampa Police Department – Crime Prevention Unit – CPTED Specialists can be reached at 276-3318. With regard to the Addendum's, all street lighting maintenance is the responsibility of Tampa Electric Company. They can be reached at 223-0800 or online at www.tampaelectric.com.

Need and Recommendation 4. Sign Relocation.

We request the moving of our neighborhood sign from E. Louisiana and N. 12th Street to the corner of E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and N. Taliaferro, to correctly indicate current neighborhood boundaries.

Response: From Ron Phillips, Traffic Studies Section, 274-8122. On February 13, 2003, the Transportation Division was informed that the Southeast Seminole Heights Neighborhood Sign assembly located at the intersection of E. Louisiana Avenue and N. 12th Street had been knocked down. Upon investigating, we did confirm that the sign post was down, however, the actual sign identifying the neighborhood was missing.

Therefore, at the request of the Neighborhood Association, the Transportation Division will fabricate and install a new sign at the northeast corner of E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and N. Taliaferro Street to be read by northbound traffic on Taliaferro. However, due to an insufficient supply of materials needed to fabricate and install these signs, we are unable to provide the neighborhood association with a specific time frame for installation at this time. However, we are hopeful the sign will be installed this year.

Update: From William Porth, Traffic Analysis Section, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The Transportation Division Street Maintenance staff completed the installation of the Southeast Seminole Heights Neighborhood sign on July 7, 2003.

V.M. Ybor Neighborhood Association and Crime Watch Inc.(V.M. Ybor N.A.C.W. Inc.)

Submitted by: Carroll Joseph Marshall
V.M. Ybor N.A.C.W. Inc.
P.O. Box 76764
Ybor City, FL 33675
(813) 994-8323 (h)

Need and Recommendation 5. Funding for Alley Closure in V.M. Ybor Neighborhood.

Specific Locations of Need:

- a. **From N. 10th Street (east) to N. 12th Street. Between E. 23rd Avenue and E. 24th Avenue.**
- b. **From N. 10th Street (west) to N. Nebraska Avenue. Between E. 23rd Avenue and E. 24th Avenue.**
Same as above. Also used for "drive through" drug dealing.
- c. **From N. 10th Street (east) running behind two homes, where alley ends. Between E. 24th Avenue and E. 25th Avenue.**

Dealers frequently distribute drugs at the entrance of the alley.

- d. From N. 10th Street (west) running behind four homes, where alley ends. Between E. 24th Avenue and E. 25th Avenue.**

This alley is overgrown and provides ideal "cover" for illegal activities.

- e. From N. 10th Street (west) to N. Nebraska Avenue. Between E. 25th Avenue and E. 26th Avenue.**

Like the others, this alley contributes to illegal activities.

Response to a. through e.: From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner, Housing and Community Development Division, 274-8228. Information packages concerning the procedures for requesting the City to vacate existing street right-of-way are available in the City Land Development Coordination Department, located on the 3rd Floor of City Hall Annex. The process to vacate street involves several City departments that may have services located within the existing right-of-way and may object to the requested closure. For instance, if the City Public Works Department has existing utility lines underground in the right-of-way, they may object to the requested street closure because they may not have access to maintain those utility lines if the right-of-way is vacated.

The City does not provide funding for neighborhood groups to petition the City to vacate alleys. The City can initiate the closure of an alley, but only after specific conditions of the Land Development Regulations have been met.

Need and Recommendation 6. Street Lighting.

- a. Light and pole are needed on N. 12th Street between E. 19th and E. 20th Avenues.**
- b. Street light is needed on N. 13th Street between N. 17th Street and E. Columbus Drive.**
- c. Street light is needed on E. 15th Avenue between N. 10th Street and N. Nebraska Avenue.**
- d. Street light is needed on the north side of N. 17th Street between N. 13th and N. 14th Streets.**

- e. **Streetlight is needed at 1401 E. 23rd Avenue.**
- f. **Light pole numbers that need light are as follows:**
 - 1. **2556642320-E. 25th Avenue and N. 12th Street.**
 - 2. **2550042307-N. 10th Street between E. 25th and E. 24th Avenues.**

Response to a. through f.: From Calvin Thornton, Transportation Planning, 274-7884. An investigation of all of the above locations has been initiated. Transportation Division will review individual locations for additional streetlight concerns. Streetlights are installed to assist motorist traveling during hours of darkness. If the following locations listed in a-f do not meet Transportation Standard for streetlights, we will need at least two weeks to investigate. The procedure to process a lighting resolution will take at least 3 months. Then a work order request will be sent to Tampa Electric Company to install a streetlight. Tampa Electric Company's response time for streetlight is a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 2 years.

It is advisable if a community or block club has any streetlight concerns, please contact Terry Wermuth immediately at 274-8007. All streetlight outages should be reported directly to Tampa Electric Company at 223-0800, and please make sure you have the ten (10) digit number on the pole for reporting streetlight outages.

Please do not wait until the CDBG process to report streetlight outages or streetlight requests.

Update to a. through f.: From Calvin Thornton, Transportation Planning, 274-7884. All requested locations have been approved for installation.

This page left blank intentionally.