

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

Block Club: Area VI

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

Boundaries: Dr. Martin L. King Jr., Blvd. (north); I-275 (south), Florida Avenue (east); MacDill (west).

Contact Person: Mr. Jim Gray, LDO, Chairperson
1709 N. Armenia Avenue
Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: 253-0527 (w)

Submitted by: Jimmie L. Gray
Pilgrims Rest M.B. Church Brotherhood Outreach
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Need and Recommendation 1. Request for Funding – Census Tracts 1-60.

The Fatherhood, Assistance, Lifestyle, Legal referral Service, Inc. (F.A.L.L.S.) faithbased organization is requesting a \$150,000.00 contribution. The contribution will enable efforts to help non-custodial, custodial fathers and their children...to give them hope and break the patterns of family violence, absenteeism, poverty, illiteracy, homelessness and hopelessness (See Addendum "B-1").

Utilizing experts from private consultants to public service agents, we assist one to three families and eight to twelve individual participants monthly, all that our current resources will allow. Services are free of charge to all residents of the City of Tampa and the county of Hillsborough.

Your contribution will enable us to enhance and further our programs of:

**Public Awareness via Newspaper and Radio
Domestic Violence Education/Prevention
Parenting/Effective Communication Skills**

**Legal Referral – Child Support/Custody/Visitation
GED Prep Classes**

Our recent Community Health Fair and Family Festival (12/7/02) at the River Front Park, boasts attendance of more than 100 participants, local vendors and volunteers. The F.A.L.L.S is currently looking at other beneficial program venues.

As you are aware, the need is great and it is real. When children have both parents actively involved in their upbringing, they perform better in school, have higher self-esteem and are less likely to become involved with the legal system negatively.

Response: From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Department of Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. The City sent and received a Request for Proposal (RFP) from Mr. Gray. 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, Department of Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. The City was unable to fund the above worthwhile project because the Community Development Block Grant funding has been decreasing annually for several years. We were unable to include this new proposal along with the many other new ones received this program year.

Old West Tampa Neighborhood Association and Crime Watch

Submitted by: Harriet McCray
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Need and Recommendation 2. Rey Park Recreation Center.

- a. **Renovations to Restrooms.** Rey Park is open year round, offering programs for children and adults, and services an estimated 100-200 children weekly. The restrooms are totally inadequate for the amount of children and adults who utilize the facilities. The park is located in West Tampa at 2301 N. Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607.
- b. **Tables.** Ten six-foot tables are needed. The recreation center offers many classes to the community such as painting, arts and crafts, computer

training, etc. There are not enough tables to adequately serve the needs of the recreation center.

- c. Shuffle Board Court. The recreation center has a senior club of over 35 active members who regularly attend and participate in the programs that are offered.**
- d. Metal Chairs. The center needs 50 metal chairs, to assist in serving 100-200 children and 35 senior club members on a weekly basis.**

Response to a.: From Pete Burgue, Deputy Director, Recreation Department, 274-7740. In order to determine if it is feasible to expand the restrooms at Rey Park Center it is necessary to have an architectural review of the facility. We have requested the James Jackson, City Architect, Department of Public Works, review the structure and plumbing status of the current building and make a recommendation on the feasibility of expanding the restrooms. If it is determined that the restrooms expansion is not practical, then we would recommend the replacement of the existing restrooms with the new center.

Update to a.: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department met with the City Architect and determined that using an existing storage room can expand the women's restroom. Funding for this project was not provided, however Parks and Recreation will work with other City Departments to determine if this can be accomplished with other departments budgeted funds. If not, Parks and Recreation will request funding in the FY05 budget.

Response to b.: From Pete Burgue, Deputy Director, Recreation Department, 274-7740. Staff will evaluate table needs for programming and storage capabilities and will replace as needed.

Update to b.: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department installed new tables for the center and will evaluate future needs due to programming and storage capabilities.

Response to c.: From Pete Burgue, Deputy Director, Recreation Department, 274-7740. As we determine the feasibility of the renovations of the restrooms we will include the construction of a set of shuffleboard courts to the south of the center.

Update to c.: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department requested funding for the shuffleboard at Rey Park, unfortunately funding was not available. If additional funding does come available in the future, Parks and Recreation will resubmit the project for approval.

Response to d.: From Pete Burgue, Deputy Director, Recreation Department, 274-7740. Staff will evaluate chair needs for programming and storage capabilities and will replace as needed.

Update to d.: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation has purchased chairs for the community center.