

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

Block Club: City-wide

Neighborhoods: City-wide

Boundaries: City-wide

Contact Person: All Block Club Captains

Need and Recommendation 1. Code Enforcement.

Consistently uphold and administer the code enforcement rules, by collecting fines as a deterrent against illegal dumping and overgrown, unkempt properties.

Response: From Curtis Lane, Director for the Code Enforcement Department, 274-5545. The Code Enforcement Department has made legislative changes to better enforce code violations, including collecting fines to deter illegal dumping and overgrown, unkempt properties. Specifically, the Department has instituted a new procedure to forward outstanding violations to the County's Court system for a judge to render a decision concerning enforcement. This new procedure places the emphasis on possible jail time to habitual offenders of the code enforcement system and has improved the overall efficiency of compliance with code requirements.

Need and Recommendation 2. Solid Waste Rangers Positions.

Reinstate the Solid Waste Ranger positions. Also expand on opportunities for citizens to dispose of unwanted waste. Contact Orange County and use their model in Tampa. Increase the number of NEAT pick-ups and/or create dumpsites for disposal.

Response: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. Tampa Police Department will contact Orange County to receive a copy of their model for Solid Waste Rangers.

Update: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. I called the Planning and Research Department of the Orange County, Florida Sheriff Office concerning the Solid Waste Rangers. They referred me to Orange County Solid Waste Department to no avail. I have researched the Internet for the following:

Orange County Solid Waste Rangers
Orange County Environmental Crimes
Orange County Environmental Crimes Unit
Solid Waste Rangers
Environmental Officers.

If I had more information concerning Orange County's plan I might be able to provide a better response.

Response: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks Department, 931-2121. The NEAT Division of the Parks Department is unable to increase the number of pick-ups due to its present staffing level. Presently, the NEAT performs 41-neighborhood pick-ups/per year. The off weeks however are used to go back into those areas requiring more work, i.e. Sulphur Springs, Belmont Heights. The Parks Department will request additional positions in Park's FY04 Budget in an attempt to increase the amount of inventory NEAT can clean when in an area.

Update: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department requested additional funding in the FY04 Budget for positions and equipment in an attempt to increase the amount of inventory NEAT Division can clean when in a specific area. Unfortunately funding for the NEAT program was not available in the FY04 Budget, however funds were appropriated to clean and maintain vacant lots in East Tampa. Parks and Recreation will again request funding to expand the NEAT program in future years, as this program is a high priority with the Department.

Response: From Varghese Jacob, Admin. and Fiscal Office Manager, Solid Waste Department, 348-1104. The Solid Waste Ranger Program was very successful towards alleviating illegal dumping and related environmental issues. As sworn uniform police officers, these positions would report to the Tampa Police Department with support and coordination from the Solid Waste Department.

In addition to the NEAT annual clean up program, the Solid Waste Department provides small-scale neighborhood cleanups when requested and coordinated by the neighborhood leaders. Neighborhood associations should contact 348-1151 to get directions on how to organize a mini-community clean up.

Additionally, a special clean up team was funded and created in FY03 to address illegal dumping in an effective and timely manner. All illegal dumping problems in public property or City right-of-way should be reported to Solid Waste Code Enforcement Division at 348-1114.

Currently the Solid Waste Department provides every residential customer an opportunity to dispose trash and bulky materials at the McKay Bay Transfer Station free of charge. Creating additional dumpsites in the City is not a solution supported by the Solid Waste Department.

Need and Recommendation 3. Community Involvement with a Citizen Task Force for Nebraska Avenue.

Initiate and continue a Citizen Task Force for Nebraska Avenue. Include citizens who are on Nebraska Avenue and close proximity in the planning and decision making process. The concerns of the CDBG committee include, but are not limited to, upgrading of street lighting, street paving and landscaping.

Response: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. The active Civic Associations along the Nebraska Avenue corridor are a valuable resource from which to draw knowledge about specific needs and local issues. The City of Tampa will work to increase the opportunities for Civic Associations to provide input throughout the planning and design processes that affect the Nebraska Avenue Corridor.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations/Neighborhood Liaison Office, 274-7835. The Neighborhood Liaison Office has a standing monthly meeting with the Prostitution Task Force which is made up of representatives of the neighborhoods bordering Nebraska Avenue, the State Attorney's office, the Tampa Police Department, Crossroads Drug Treatment facility, and other organizations or individuals with a vested interest in the improvement of Nebraska Avenue. This monthly meeting brings the issues that concern all the neighborhoods and businesses on Nebraska into the planning and decision making process. There are no plans to terminate these meetings and all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The timetable for implementation of the issues of street paving, upgrading the street lighting and landscaping of Nebraska Avenue are all directly or indirectly contingent upon the completion of the construction work currently being done by the Florida Department of Transportation on the I-4 interchange. Nebraska Avenue is a State of Florida highway and as such is under their control.

The City of Tampa and the Planning Commission have both had assurances from FDOT that the improvements requested above will commence upon completion of the I-4 interchange and will have input from the neighborhoods, the City and other interested organizations.

Need and Recommendation 4. Street Lighting.

We request that the CPTED division of the Tampa Police Department to review the Needs and Recommendations that were submitted by various neighborhoods over the last four years and use this as a basis for the initial upgrading of street lighting throughout Tampa.

Response: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. The Lighting Initiative is comprised of members from the Tampa Police Department, City of Tampa's Transportation, Planning and Zoning, Parks Departments and Tampa Electric Company. Currently the City of Tampa utilizes 50 and 70-watt High Pressure Sodium lamps in Type I cobra-head fixtures in all streetlights. A Type I fixture projects a vast majority of the light onto the street rather than the sidewalk. The Lighting Initiative was developed to provide higher illumination levels with the pedestrian being the primary focus of the light source. Every fixture in Tampa will be replaced with 100-watt High Pressure Sodium lamps in a Type III fixture. In order to enhance illumination levels it is necessary for TECO to replace the entire fixture.

The Tampa Lighting Initiative is currently in the first phase, the installation of the first group of new lights will be in West Tampa. A resolution for the purchase and installation of the enhancements has been approved by City Council and now TECO needs to order and install the lights. The West Tampa area was chosen as the experimental grid due to the crime statistics and community redevelopment. This will be the same criterion used to identify future sites.

Due to the coordination efforts among multiple City agencies and a private utility company, the first phase is the most critical as we learn our strengths and shortcomings and adapt operating procedures accordingly. It is anticipated that TECO would need four to seven years to complete the project.

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 2 (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.

Need and Recommendation 5. Department Responses.

We ask that City departments give more details than to respond with "there is no money in the budget this year". When responding to the Needs and Recommendations, we ask that they indicate if they were aware of the Need being requested, do they anticipate being able to fulfill the request or not and an approximate time frame that the request will be started.

Response: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. The Transportation Division realizes that the effectiveness of the Community Needs and Recommendation Report comes from having responses that directly address the Needs and Recommendations statement. Every effort will be made to address the awareness of the need, the ability to meet the need, and the approximate time for completion of the requested improvement which is recognized by priority. This division will continue to coordinate with the Committee to ensure proper interpretation of the Need and a timely response.

Need and Recommendation 6. Copying Funds.

Provide the Budget Department with copying funds. Request funding for thirty (30) copies of all printed materials the Budget Department dispenses to CDBG members, i.e.: Needs and Recommendations, City of Tampa Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, and any other budget reports or studies requested by the CDBG committee.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations/Neighborhood Liaison Office, 274-7835. The Neighborhood Liaison Office has equipment set aside for the use of the neighborhoods. That equipment includes a copier, which is available to members of the CDBG Committee to make copies of materials that are distributed by the Budget Department. The City of Tampa INET also has those same materials available online for the members of the Committee to review.

The Neighborhood Liaison Office will continue to support the neighborhoods and help them improve their communities.

Response: From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. The Budget Office forwards copies of the Needs and Recommendations responses from the City departments to the Block Club President and each Block Club Captain. In addition, the Budget Office forwards two copies of the yearly collected Request for Proposals to the Block Club President. Community Affairs Department received 18 copies of the City of Tampa Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report Fiscal Year 2001 along

with 12 copies of the Consolidated Plan Programs Years 2002-2006, the Action Plan. The above referenced documents and many other budget related reports can be viewed and printed from the City's Website (www.tampagov.net/dept_Budget). Community Affairs is gathering e-mail addresses for the Budget Office in order to forward requested information to the Block Club Committee members. The Budget Office will work with the CDBG Committee to make information available through all possible resources.

Update: From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. The Budget Office forwarded copies of the Needs and Recommendations responses to the Block Club President and each Block Club Captain on June 3, 2003. Responses were sent by US mail system and electronic mail. Our office provided Community Affairs Department with 40 copies of the City of Tampa Action Plan for Program Year 2003 (Fiscal Year 2004), which were made available to the Block Club President and Captains.

Need and Recommendation 7. Traffic Study Report.

The CDBG committee is asking when a community requests a traffic study, that a summary report is submitted to the civic group and that a department representative is available to explain the findings.

Response: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. When a community requests a Traffic Study, the data is compiled and the results summarized in a memo from Mr. Ron Phillips of the Traffic Studies Section, who provides the community a letter explaining the findings. (However, a Block Club request may only receive an explanation within the "Response to Needs and Recommendations".) If the community (or a Block Club) has questions about the findings of a study or wishes to see the actual data and summary memo, they should call Mr. Phillips at 274-8122. He is always available to answer questions and provide whatever information you desire.