

Community Affairs

- Major Accomplishment: Closures and settlements of discrimination cases by employers and housing/lending institutions.
- Established the Mayor's Youth Advisory Group.¹
- Coordinated Mayor's Youth Advisory Group that completed an assessment of selected City Recreation and Park Facilities.²
- Administered the City's Mediation process for employment discrimination.³
- First publication of "The Community Affairs Report Newsletter" in 1999, featuring articles, event and other information related to the Tampa Office of Human Rights and Community Services.
- Began publishing The Community Affairs Report Newsletter in Spanish to reach that segment of the City's population.
- Presented Community Affairs Program through the Tampa Police Department addressing issues related to juvenile and special needs groups.
- Enacted the Juvenile Curfew and Rave ordinances.
- Increased the staff of the Neighborhood Liaison's office to better serve citizens.
- Created the Neighborhood Action Team to assist seniors with home repairs.
- Appointed a Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee.
- Achieved 9% average overall participation in the Women/Minority Business Enterprise program from 1995-2001.⁴
- Promoted private sector involvement in job training programs through a breakfast meeting attended annually by over 1,000 business and community leaders.
- Partnered with Hillsborough County and the Workforce Development Board to plan, implement and evaluate services in improving the caliber of the workforce.

Community Affairs Notes:

- ¹ The Mayor's Youth Advisory Group (MYAG) is a 15-member youth advisory/service board. The main purpose of MYAG is to keep Tampa Mayor Dick Greco advised on youth issues and concerns. The motto "Lead by Example" personifies the Mayor's motivation behind organizing MYAG. The Mayor saw a need to include youth in important decisions affecting the future of Tampa Bay. This program offers the youth the opportunity to become more involved in community outreach and planning. MYAG also offers them the chance to gain hands on experience in the everyday operations of City of Tampa government.
- MYAG starts in early September and runs until late May. The group meets monthly to attend special City sponsored events, conduct tours of City Departments, conduct youth led discussion groups, and participate in community service projects. Community service projects include neighborhood clean-ups, youth forums, mentoring programs and community outreach at such organizations as Ronald Macdonald House. Additionally, the group meets with the Mayor once every other month.
- Membership requirements for all applicants limit the ages between 15 and 18 years old, minimum GPA of 2.5, and must be a Tampa resident. The selection process for MYAG includes submittal of a complete application and mandatory interview by a group of their peers. If selected, new members are expected to complete at least one year of service.
- The Mayor regularly meets with the group and provided the members assignments to complete. In the past years, the most important assignment the group completed was a survey of Tampa community centers. The MYAG members spent two weeks conducting on-site inspections of (10) Tampa community centers. They compiled their findings into a report that went to the Mayor and City Council. Their recommendations were considered during the budget and planning process. Consequently, substantial amounts were earmarked for the repair and remodeling of the community centers.
- MYAG continues to work towards fulfilling the motto, "Lead By Example". The organizers hope that the youth involved in this program will continue to have a high regard for their City and pass what they have learned about civic duty and responsibility to future generations.
- ² The Mayor's Advisory Group submitted a comprehensive assessment report of Parks and Recreation in 1999. Through the Mayor's bond program, many of the deficiencies identified in the report were rectified.
- ³ In FY'01, 28 cases were scheduled for mediation. Of these cases, 17 were successfully mediated, resulting in \$25, 649 in monetary settlements for the complainants.
- ⁴ Between 1995 - 2001, \$68.6 million in contracts was awarded to minority and women owned businesses out of a total of \$752.8 million. During this period, the percent of dollars awarded to minority and women owned businesses ranged from 7.4% to 10.2%. The lowest year was 1995 with 7.4%.