

Meet Abbye Feeley, the City of Tampa's new Director of Development & Growth Management

The City of Tampa welcomes Abbye Feeley as the new Director of the Development & Growth Management Department. She has more than 20 years of experience working in the public sector, including time at the Florida Department of Community Affairs and 18 years with the City of Tampa.

As Director of Development & Growth Management, previously known as the Planning & Development Department, Abbye is providing oversight for the City's divisions of Architectural Review & Historic Preservation, Construction Services, Development Coordination, Housing & Community Development and Real Estate.

"The Planning & Development Department's efforts are key to the success of my administration's key focus areas. We are excited to welcome Abbye to the City of Tampa team. her expertise will be instrumental in transforming Tampa's tomorrow," says Mayor Jane Castor.

Abbye joins the City of Tampa from Stearns Weaver Miller, where she served as the Associate Director of Zoning and Planning. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Abbye has lived in Florida for 36 years, spending her last 21 years in Tampa. She has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science/Urban Planning and Master's degree in both Public Administration (MPA) and Urban and Regional Planning (MSP), with a specialization in Local Government and Comprehensive Planning from Florida State University.

Another Friendly Face

Viola Dawson recently joined our team as an Office Support Specialist. With many years of experience as a professional in the field of executive assistance and management, Viola brings a broad range of skills to the City of Tampa, including customer service, team management, computer and software development and training. She has worked with the federal government and municipalities, and with companies both large and small. She is a member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) and is currently the organization's Regional Director for the Florida/South Atlantic Region.

Join Mayor Castor and the City Team for this Interactive INFORMATION SESSION on Investing in Tampa's Tomorrow

All Developers, Builders, and Investors are invited to Join Mayor Castor and the City team to participate in the 2nd Affordable Housing Town Hall. This virtual event will feature the Preview of 2021 Initiatives to Drive Private Development of Affordable Housing, the introduction of the newly appointed Director of Development and Growth Management; Abbye Feeley, and an update of the newly released Affordable Housing Incentives.

Date: Tuesday, December 8th 5:00pm - 6:30pm

There are many continuing and new opportunities to invest in our community's future and to be apart of Tampa's Tomorrow. We want to ensure that all partners and stakeholders can align their efforts with the City's Housing Affordability strategy.

Please RSVP by registering for this event by Dec 4th, registration is free and open to the public. (Feel free to share with a friend.)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAIfuqvrd0tHd166vt8nYORvrMq8h11xjcW>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Issue Fall 2020

Housing and Community Development

A Message from the Manager

On COVID-19

As I write to you today, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a major part of our lives in Tampa for months. In that time, our schools have had to re-invent the way they educate students and are striving to remain a support system to children even as learning takes place at a distance. Some businesses have sadly shut down due to lost revenue, while many others seek new ways of operating safely.

The team at HCD has worked hard behind the scenes to adjust everything we do to accommodate the 'new normal.' Our office work has been done remotely, and we conduct the bulk of our presentations and meetings virtually. We have slowed down our project schedules to allow time for correct sanitization, and we have implemented a mandatory mask policy designed to keep employees, partners, and our clients safe.

Our clients, community partners, and residents have been incredible – adjusting as well, and trusting us to keep working with them. With that being said, the City of Tampa has returned to our regular work schedule and locations have re-opened in response to COVID-19. More details will be provided by each department lead and/or the HR department.

The team at HCD has worked hard to adapt, and we will continue to provide excellence to our community during this crisis. Wishing you all good health during this fall season.

Your Humble Servant,

Vanessa B. McCleary
HCD Manager



Planning Commission announces 38th Annual Planning & Design Award Winners

HCD awarded Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award

Homeownership is a huge hurdle for a lot of people, and the judges applauded the Urban 360 project for helping to rebuild historically underserved parts of the inner city by providing affordable housing opportunities, without sacrificing aesthetics or quality. Urban 360 represents a public-private partnership at its best by transforming the East Tampa Community Redevelopment Area into a thriving community and fulfilling the dream of new home ownership for low- and moderate-income families. The City of Tampa's Housing and Community Development Division took the unprecedented step of partnering with Domain Homes and non-profit organizations Habitat for Humanity of Hillsborough County and Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa. Together, they were able to build 89 quality homes within just 22 months, bringing a renewed energy to the community and turning it into a desirable urban housing location.

View Award Program here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeMBDiRHvYc>

HCD Launches Business and Brunch

At the start of this pandemic, we all learned a great deal about what is possible. We have all developed new ways of doing business. Now, it's time to take our new-found superpower and use it to design systems by which housing security can become a reality for all Tampanians.

Whether it's the dream of homeownership or an affordable rental unit near employment centers, housing stability can be a reality with a little help.

We are looking for subject matter experts such as: realtors, lenders, non-profit agencies, financial institutions, and credit repair organizations to partner with HCD as we educate employees of local businesses regarding the home ownership process as well as share services and resources available to them here in the city.

Interested in partnering as a subject matter expert? Email Ebone Clifton at ebone.clifton@tampagov.net with your name, area of expertise, and contact information.

To learn more about the program:
<https://youtu.be/u1UwpHNazxc>

Register your business here: <https://www.tampagov.net/business-and-brunch>



Drive-Thru Thanksgiving

Pick up a free turkey with all the trimmings at a Thanksgiving Outreach drive-through event by Simply Healthcare Plans and Heaven Destiny. Meal pick-up is offered while supplies last from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, November 21, at Cyrus Greene Park, 2101 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Welcome Home Tampa

Homeownership is an exciting time and the City of Tampa Housing and Community Development Division wants to make these moments even more special for first time home buyer. As part of our "Dare to Own the Dream" homeownership program we will begin providing "Welcome Home Tampa" baskets to be presented to homebuyers.



This is a perfect gift for someone who is new to the Tampa area or recently purchased a new home. It's a classy offering that has a nice keepsake and useful items for a new homeowner.



New Senior Housing Coming Soon

Madison Highlands, a new affordable 55+ senior housing apartment building located at 5315 N. 37th Street, is expected to be complete in late 2021. Developed by Peter Law, American Residential Communities, the project is a low-income housing tax credit development that will offer rents at or below 60 percent of area median income. The apartments will feature carded secure entries, Energy Star windows and appliances, full-size kitchens, and community landscaping.

For information, visit us at tampagov.net or call the City of Tampa Housing & Community Development Division at (813) 274-7940.

What is HOPWA?

The impact that the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) funding has had on the women and children that participate in the Catholic Charities Mercy House Program is that it provides housing for people who may be homeless due to their HIV/AIDS status. The families can live independently in the community, and the families are provided with referrals from Catholic Charities Coordinator to social service agencies that provide a continuum of services to support and improve their living situation. Many of our residents have limited income so Catholic Charities provides transportation as well as support from a staff available on-site 24 hours a day. The residents are required to pay rent based on their income which gives them the ability to be self-sufficient thus increasing their self-esteem.

With Mercy House, our clients come to us from all walks of life with various issues in addition to having HIV/AIDS. One success story is about a resident who has been able to gain custody of both of her children, continue her rehabilitation, and receive a job promotion. She has been able to make progress for herself and her child each day, and is currently working on moving into permanent housing.

REACH First-Time Homebuyer Workshop

During this workshop, you will:

- Learn How to Avoid Costly Mortgage Mistakes
- Find Out How To Qualify For Down Payment Assistance Programs
- Hear Tips on How to Prepare Your Budget and Credit for a Mortgage
- Learn the Homebuying Process from Start to Finish
- Learn About Home Inspections, Homeowners Insurance, and Title
- Earn Required 8 HOURS Certificate for Pre-Purchase Education

To register for this event, please call (813) 397-6208 or email us at housing@reach4housing.org.

3rd Quarter City Loan Closings

Closings:

July

One domain home with \$15,000 city loan

August

3 homes with city loans for \$30,000 each

September

One domain home with \$30,000 city loan

October

3 homes (1 domain and 1 East Tampa CRA) totaling \$75,000 city loans

Total City Loans = \$210,000.00

One Tampa Relief Fund Success

Launched in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the *One Tampa: Relief Now, Rise Together Fund* assisted 1,255 individuals and paid approximately \$3 million in rent, mortgage, and utilities in 2020. Through the fund, the City of Tampa assisted 272 businesses and paid over \$900,000 in rent, mortgage, and utilities, allowing many families to remain stably housed.