

## Welcome to the Team!

**Christopher J. Calder** was born and raised in Palm Harbor, Florida. He graduated from Tarpon Springs Senior High School in 1993 and entered the U.S. Navy attending basic training in Orlando in May of 1994. Chris served as a Navy Police Officer and Watch Commander, Legal Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Chinese Linguist, Intelligence Analyst in Signals Intelligence and Cybersecurity, and Language Program Manager for 1,200 military linguists across the globe. He has led departments ranging from 90 to 500 joint-service personnel. Chris has an Associate of Science degree in Chinese and will shortly earn his Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. Chris retired from the Navy in May of 2020 after 26 years of service. He has a strong desire to help people and is motivated by learning new things. He now lives in Palm Harbor with his wife of 22 years, Elba, and has three children and three grandchildren.



Chris joins our team as an Office Support Specialist III serving the Human Rights Team.

A meaningful quote for Chris: *"The greatest wisdom consists in knowing one's own follies."*  
– Madeleine De Souvré Sablé

## A Special Thanks

We would like to thank **Vanessa McCleary** for her contributions to the City of Tampa Housing and Community Development Department. On January 14, 2021, Vanessa (center) was presented with a commendation by the Tampa City Council recognizing her hard work and dedication to the HCD.



Issue Spring 2021

# Housing and Community Development

## Manager's Message

The Housing and Community Development Team wishes everyone a bright Spring.

As we move forward, I will be serving as Interim Manager. Should you need our assistance, we are here to help and look forward to continuing our many valuable partnerships in 2021.



During these unprecedented times, we want to assure you that the City of Tampa Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division is hard at work. We continue to help residents access safe, decent and affordable housing, in addition to ensuring that vitally needed community services are provided without disruption. Through various programs, and with the help of community partners, HCD has been able to offer rent and mortgage support to residents facing evictions and foreclosures, homelessness prevention, utility and home repairs assistance and homebuyer assistance.

We are so grateful for the support of our community and want you to know that we are available to help during these trying times. Please check out our website at [www.tampagov.net/HCD](http://www.tampagov.net/HCD) for the latest housing and community development news.

**Kayon Henderson**  
HCD Interim Manager

## Economic Development

The purpose of Economic Development funds is to stimulate economic revitalization that will create jobs for low-income persons; provide access to credit for community development that promotes long term economic and social viability; and empower economically disadvantaged persons to achieve self-sufficiency.

An economic development project funded by a Community Development Block Grant must be either:

- Technical assistance to for-profit businesses in low-income census tracts or that serve low-income census tracts within the Tampa city limits.
- Special economic development activities loans and/or grants to create and or expand for-profit businesses in low-income census tracts or that serve low-income census tracts.

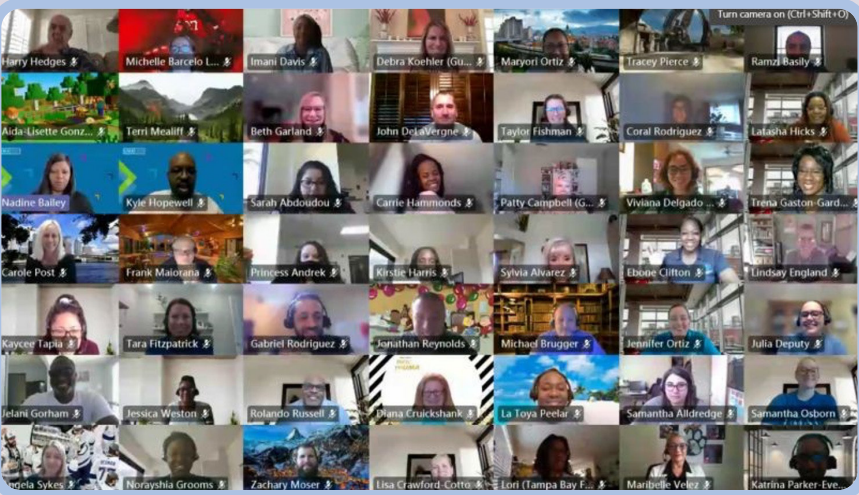


### HCD Launches Business & Brunch for Ultimate Medical Academy Staff

Our Housing team has launched a new Employer Assisted Housing Initiative called Business & Brunch. This initiative reaches residents at their workplace to help increase awareness of available City of Tampa housing programs and community partner assistance. Strategic partnerships with organizations like [Solita's House](#), [Housing & Education Alliance](#), [Habitat for Humanity Hillsborough](#), and many more allow our team to address housing affordability and bolster our community.

Our team recently partnered with [Ultimate Medical Academy](#) to survey UMA staff, collecting feedback and learning their specific housing needs. Over 200 UMA staff members tuned in to a unique presentation, tailored to their specific interests!

You can see the Ultimate Medical Academy program launch here: <https://youtu.be/x8PcHEt1458>.



Is your business interested in helping employees improve their housing situation? We are looking for businesses to host Business & Brunch sessions! Learn more here: <https://lnkd.in/gpuwAJw>.

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

### 2nd Virtual Developers Event

All developers, builders, and investors were invited to join Mayor Castor and the City of Tampa team to participate in the 2nd Affordable Housing Town Hall. This virtual event featured 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. View the event here: <https://youtu.be/sdnzeuaeIXQ>.

### Homebuyer Education

Real Estate Education and Community Housing, Inc. is offering free online Homebuyer Education Workshops to teach members of the low-to-moderate income community how to become homeowners. To complete the program, participants attend one 2-hour class **and** one 6-hour class.

Online classes are offered on Saturdays. For more information, class schedule and to pre-register for the program visit [www.reach4housing.org](http://www.reach4housing.org), email [housing@reach4housing.org](mailto:housing@reach4housing.org) or call toll free 855-487-3224.

### Welcome Home Tampa Has First Recipient

As part of the “Welcome Home Tampa” initiative, Mayor Jane Castor, State Representative Dianne Hart and Tampa City Councilman Orlando Gudes presented the program’s first recipient with a gift basket to demonstrate the City’s support. The grant recipient, who preferred not to be named, received \$30,000 in gap funding from the City of Tampa Dare to Own the Dream Homeownership program (DARE). That amount was equal to approximately 17% of the purchase price of the 3 bedroom/2 bathroom single family home that the grant recipient was able to buy. The new homeowner attended Solita’s House homebuyer’s classes and now has a monthly mortgage payment of \$923.28 instead of rent payments of \$900 a month.

Cheers to homeownership and Welcome Home Tampa!



### Recent Home Closings

- 12/4/2020 - Queen Peterkin
- 12/7/2020 - Laneisha Hill  
(Habitat for Humanity)
- 12/21/2020 - Tamara Virgil
- 12/28/2020 - Michaela Moore  
(Habitat for Humanity)
- 1/11/2021 - Kimmella Pettermon  
(DARE & East Tampa CRA)

### Who We Are

The City of Tampa Planning and Development Department was renamed Development & Growth Management effective October 12, 2020. The department is comprised of the following divisions: Construction Services, Architectural Review and Historic Preservation, Housing & Community Development, Development Coordination and Real Estate.

The function of the [City of Tampa Development & Growth Management Department](#) is to ensure there is safe and affordable housing, and that commercial structures are compatible and compliant with the applicable codes and ordinances.

