



**Ybor City Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Summary**

When: October 17, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Where: Ybor CRA Office, 2015 E. 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605

CAC Members Attending		City Staff/Team members	
Rich Simmons, Chair- <i>At-Large</i>	Liz Welch, Vice Chair – <i>BLC</i>	Brenda Thrower	Captain Dan College
Marcia Austin – <i>At-Large</i>	Michael Murphy - <i>YMA</i>	Corine Linebrink	Offc. James Wilcher
Chris Wojtowicz – <i>At-Large</i>	David Bailey - <i>HYNCA</i>	Off. Jasmine House	Jason Stewart
Peter Wright – <i>At-Large</i>	Cristal Lastra - <i>Social Clubs</i>	Off. Dariel Perez	Mike Petersen
Brittney Barrie – <i>At-Large</i>	Damon Shiver- <i>YCCC</i>	Darrius Stallworth	Rene Lopez
Chris Wojtowicz – <i>At-Large</i>	Larissa Baia- <i>HCC</i>		
Fran Costantino - <i>Emeritus</i>		Guests	
		Jack Smith	Grace Sailer
CAC Members Absent		Olivia Aye	Jose Cayon
Steven Barbas - <i>YCMS</i>		Carisa Erion	Stephanie Harrison-Bailey
Walter Pinnolis – <i>Gaybor District</i>		John Desmond	Nancy Desmond
Arnold Trueba- <i>At-Large/HCSO</i>		James Wilson	Carisa Erion
Joseph Capitano Sr. - <i>Emeritus</i>		Lee Bell	

The Ybor CRA Community Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting by Chairperson Rich Simmons. Roundtable introductions were made, and member roll call was taken.

Public Comment (3 minutes): None

Ybor CAC Minutes of September 26, 2023: The minutes were offered for review and comment. Hearing no comments, Chair Simmons entertained a motion to approve. ***There was a motion (Welch/Muphy) to approve the September 2023 minutes. Vote unanimously approved.***

TPD District 3 Stats Grids 128 and 129 Update: Captain Daniel College introduced himself as the new sector Captain for District 3 and apologized for not being here last month due to military reserve duty. He commented on the TPD stats stating that there was a jump in thefts and larceny due to pick pocketing. What they are seeing this month is that trend decreasing. As for quality-of-life issues, TPD is enforcing them on the weekends. Last weekend, officers focused on noise ordinance enforcement with clubs and vehicles. For the most part, the clubs were compliant or cooperative with police efforts, particularly when asked to lower the volume. They did issue some citations but did not have those numbers. Wright thanked Captain College for his service and asked were the violations for vehicles or incidents in the parking lots. It was an all-around effort and officers were dedicated to addressing noise violations that evening. They plan to focus enforcement in different areas on other nights but don't want to be

predictable. DUI's are up due to check points set up at the exits and entrances to Ybor City. The message TPD is hoping to get out is that they are enforcing the rules and not ignoring them. Bailey asked about enforcement on 5th Avenue with its heavy traffic, noise, and exhaust. He recommended they consider closing 5th Avenue to cars late at night and bringing back the 5th Avenue bollard plan. Wright commented that he is happy to see firearm seizures stats are up but are there more guns in Ybor. He understands rules have changed with open carry law in place. Lastra mentioned that last Friday was the 13th and sometimes that day brings out more activities. College mentioned enforcing "no cruising" is very difficult because vehicles are allowed to travel the street three times before a citation is given.

Enhanced Code Enforcement: Mike Peterson provided the report and referenced stats on the parking lots distributed to the Ybor CAC prior to this meeting. Costantino asked about their attendance at the Ybor CAC meetings and Simmons explained that there was confusion when the committees stopped meeting. Peterson said his team will be attending the CAC meetings now. He reported 120 complaints, 66 were submitted to zoning for review and 49 came into compliance. There were 5 violations for no attendant in the parking lot and those were sent straight to the Hearing Magistrate and scheduled for a December 5 hearing. Bailey asked about Director O'Connor's comment that his code enforcement officers are not comfortable working at night. Bailey feels code enforcement needs to work nights to address violations. Petersen said he is having discussions about walking as a team with a Tampa Police officer and hopeful this will be protocol moving forward. Petersen asked if CAC was satisfied with the report and code stats provided at the meeting and they were. He will continue to provide these reports each month.

TPD Homeless Liaison Update: No report.

YES! Team Report: Jason Stewart, Block by Block Manager, gave a report on the YES Team operation over the past month. His team has been removing stickers and bills on the poles, reporting graffiti, and providing hospitality assistance to visitors requesting directions and/or information. His team continues to do wellness checks with the homeless individuals on the street and panhandling incidents are down. They are working with TPD regularly. Joint patrols have enabled them to discover unsafe conditions with discarded needles. One incident led to an encampment at 15th St. and 3rd Avenue and arrests were made. There was a question about availability of a "sharps" container to deposit needles. Captain College said Fire Departments have them but addicts typically won't use them.

YCDC Inc. Update – Rich Simmons provided an update on YCDC Inc., and that the organization is in a state of limbo right now. The Board met yesterday to address the By-Laws but first want to hold a strategic planning workshop to establish their organizational vision, mission, and goals. Welch provided a treasurer's report on the special services district as follow up to the question asked at last month's meeting. The current balance is \$879.41 and there were some questions about the line items. There was a question about the status of the paver program. Wojtowicz said the paver program is still operating and Joyce Lucas is managing the orders. The Board is looking to formalize this arrangement. Simmons will continue to provide updates at future meetings.

Tampa CRA Communications-Be Parks, CRA Communications and Project Coordinator, gave an update about the department communication efforts and her role overseeing all communications for 8 CRAs. She said the Tampa CRA tagline is “Strengthening Communities” and the Tampa CRA has a new look and feel on their City of Tampa website page with a new department brand, mission, vision statement and key objectives. Each CRA district has a landing page with information specific to it. There is also a new CRA Consultation button for the public to request assistance from the CRA Team. Social media channels are active and coordinating with the Ybor social pages. An RFP is being finalized to solicit services for a marketing consultant to assist with promoting Tampa CRA and all 8 CRA districts. Jack Smith, HCP Associates shared information about the Ybor portal webpage and how it is directing traffic to the new Ybor CRA page. The site has been completely rebranded to coordinate with the new Tampa CRA brand. Any reference to YCDC has been removed. HCP continues to send the Ybor Flash notices, Ybor Legend newsletter and post to social media channels. HCP ‘s contract was extended 1 year from October 1, 023 to September 30, 2024, to assist with this transition.

Ybor CAC Chairman’s Report: Rich Simmons

- **CRA Board Meeting Update:** Simmons summarized the CRA Board meeting and discussion about Tampa CRA restructuring.
- **CAC Nominations** – The Historic East Ybor Neighborhood Civic Association has nominated their new president, Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes as their representative on the Ybor CAC. Her nomination along with the other five nominations will be on the CRA Board agenda for approval on November 9.
- **Ybor Business Impact Award-** The Ybor Chamber Business Impact Award that was awarded to the Ybor CRA and TECO for the 7th Avenue Archway Lights on September 23, 2023, was on display at the meeting.
- **Hillsborough County City County Planning Commission-** The 7th Avenue Archway Lights will be receiving a 2nd award tomorrow night at the Planning and Design Awards Ceremony from the Planning Commission. Chair Simmons and Vice Chair Welch will be in attendance to receive the award.

Manager’s Report: Brenda Thrower

- **Community Outreach** – Thrower announced the city is hosting two Ybor community meetings on Parking Lot Enforcement Efforts. The first took place last week on October 11 at HCC Ybor Room and the second one will be held on December 19 at the City Center at Hanna Avenue. The flyers will be distributed by FLASH and feel free to share with others.
- **Economic Development Grants update** – Two façade grants were completed, and their fact sheets are included in your agenda packet. These projects were for 1521 E. 7th Ave and 1710 E. 7th Avenue. The Ybor office is now serving as the Grants Team Office.
- **Centennial Park Reimagined Master Plan Project** – Negotiations with Melk consultant resulted in a cost escalation of nearly 100%. City Parks and CRA team agreed it was too high and recommended rebidding the project as a Design Build, a preferred approach. Team will regroup

in 2024 to develop cost estimates for Design + Construction (total project) in preparation for budget planning with CAC in the Spring.

- **7th Avenue Bricking Project** - Staff are working with City Mobility to move the project forward.
- **Ybor South-Pipe Drainage and Flood Mitigation Study**– Staff is working with Stormwater to engage consultant, Stantec, to initiate this flooding study. Project expected to take in approximately 4 months to complete.
- **District Landscaping Improvements** – Staff are coordinating these projects with Parks to address immediate needs for tree pruning and removal.
- **Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) Conference October 24-27, 2023** – Staff will be attending this annual conference next week and will bring information back to you.
- **Repaving East Ybor streets** – Corine Linebrink announced a street repaving project starting soon in East Ybor. A FLASH will be sent out and the bricks streets will be preserved.

New Business/Announcements

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**- There was a question about the new route since the parade is leaving Ybor City for Downtown. The Rough Riders made the decision to move the parade and made the request to the city. The Special Events Office has not announced the new route yet.
- **4-Way Stop at 4th Ave & 18th Street** – Bailey asked about the status of this 4-Way Stop and made a request to Mobility for it to be studied and considered. Olivia Aye added that a lighted cross-walk to assist pedestrians would also be helpful. Simmons agreed with this request adding that it would improve safety. Corine Linebrink will reach out to Mobility to follow up on the request.
- **Ybor Merchant's Association**- Little Monster's Pumpkin Patch & Promenade is coming up on Saturday, October 21 from 11am- 3 pm at Centro Ybor.
- **Hotel Haya** – Art Show on Saturday, November 11 from 7-10 p.m. in Los Novedadas building.
- **Ybor Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** – Wednesday, November 15 at 6-7 p.m. Centro Ybor

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next Ybor CAC Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 4 p.m.