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WEST TAMPA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
August 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Hillsborough Educational Foundation, 2306 N. Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33607

Meeting Called to Order by Joseph Robinson, CAC Chair at 5:33 p.m. and welcomed the CAC back after summer break. The roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Ms. Williams requested her absence from the meeting be excused.

CAC Member	At-Large or Ex-Officio Seat	CAC Term Date	Present or Absent
Joseph Robinson, Chair	West Tampa Community Development Corp.	1/16/2027	P
Carlos Ramirez, Vice Chair	North Hyde Park Alliance	3/9/2025	P
Michael Braccia	At Large	6/29/2025	A
Janice Williams	At Large	6/29/2025	A
Bobby Wilson	Old West Tampa Neighborhood Association and Crimewatch	4/13/2025	P
Jeanette LaRussa Fenton	West Tampa Chamber of Commerce	9/12/2026	P
Cynthia Maloney	North Hyde Park Civic Association	9/15/2025	P
Delphine Jones	West Riverfront Crime Watch Group	1/16/2027	P
Tina Young	Project Link Inc.	1/16/2027	P
David Iloanya	Tampa Housing Authority	7/25/2026	A
Vacant	Greater West Tampa Community Council		
Vacant	West Tampa Alliance		

P: present V: Virtual

Staff present: Brenda Thrower, Chris Ullian, Bryce Fehringer (virtual)and Kayla Caseli

Sign In Sheet: Caleb, Dr. Vondalyn Wright

Public Comment: Michael Randolph

Approval of June 24, 2025, CAC Meeting Minutes – Chair Robinson asked for approval of the June minutes. ***There was a motion (Wilson/Fenton) to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimously approved.***

Rome Yard Update- Ms. Tarnisha Cliatt from DuCon could not attend today and emailed regrets to Manager Thrower. Chair Robinson shared a detailed map of the phases for the Rome Yard project that was distributed to the CAC. There was a Rome Yard Community meeting held in July that many CAC members attended, and Ms. Fenton shared her meeting

notes. Aleric Robinson is the project manager with Related Group. The project's site work should begin in next several weeks, it will take 3-4 months before construction begins, and their plans have been submitted for the parking garage and pipes. They are still in need of subcontractors for specialized work. They did not have overall schedule for project. Looking at the phased plan, the first building will be residential with ground floor commercial with some live/work units along with parking garage. The completion for this will be 2 years. Next will be another residential building, followed by the town homes. They will continue to have engagement for work force and job fairs. They will accept felons to work on the project.

Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC) presentation – Kayla Caseli, the City's newly named Sustainability Officer introduced herself and her role with improving Tampa's resiliency and sustainability. The city has had a partnership with Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC) for past five years and has worked on projects in East Tampa, Sulphur Springs, and now West Tampa. RCC is a not-for-profit organization from New York City and has private funding to help implemented community and local government supported sustainability projects.

Paul Nelson and Mbacke Faye from RCC joined the meeting virtually and presented a power point presentation. They did the Resilient Tampa Roadmap which outlines a path towards a more resilient future for Tampa. They are working with cities on the Small Business Climate Resilience Program (SBCRP) which allows them to partner with local government on projects that are resilient to climate change. The opportunity areas for a project includes: 1) Corridor Shading and Cooling Amenities, 2) Climate Resilient and Active Alleyways, and 3) Small Business Climate Resilience Program (grants program). They want to engage with the local businesses community and collect data with the

Maloney asked for contact information with the RCC team. Robinson asked if this is just for CRA in West Tampa? Yes. He likes that this effort could complement the projects we are doing. What is a climate resilient mural? Mbacke explained it is a mural with a message. RCC will be back on the week of September 8 to conduct door-to-door surveys.

Staff Reports

a. **Projects Team –** Report was included in the packet with comments as follows:
    a. **General Project Report**: Carlos Ramirez wants more specific dates (month/year) listed on the project report. He went project by project and Thrower added any updates received since the publication of report. Ramirez said that dates are important when they are talking to the community. Robinson wants dates from the project schedule to be listed in this report. Mobility will be providing an update on the West Riverwalk project at the October 21 CAC meeting. Kimley Horn will present the Alleyway Action Plan final presentation next month. The public art

wraps on the utility boxes are complete, and the CAC complimented the project. Ramirez would like to better track projects and requests schedules be provided.

b. **Main Street Revitalization**- Fenton said that she feels we need a more detailed plan for Main Street and how do we get this priority project going. She sees this as a separate plan that is referenced in the CRP but implemented as a specific project. Thrower mentioned that there is a line item in the budget for this project with an allocation of $2.36 million. ***There was a motion (Fenton/Ramirez) to create a specific project for a Main Street Beautification and Streetscape Master Plan from Armenia to North Boulevard, in cooperation with the Main Street Corridor Study (2019) and to include a conceptual design plan for Howard Avenue Corridor from Columbus to Kennedy. Vote was unanimously approved.*** There were concerns about Howard Avenue corridor since it is a county road. Robinson said we need to get started on the project and move forward by engaging a consultant to design the corridor.

Grants Team – The Commercial Grants Policy Update is moving forward to CRA Board for approval this Thursday, August 21. Robinson commented about the process and lack of definition regarding commercial use. He plans to address the CRA Board during public comment.

b. **Housing Update-** Thrower said that CRA Board is scheduled to approve the purchase of 1713 N. Albany, otherwise referred to the Blue House this Thursday. There were several property addresses submitted for consideration of purchase.

c. **Manager Report-** Thrower reminded the CAC to submit their comments regarding the Rey Park Mural. Cory Robinson is collecting them to share with the artists for the interior mural for the new building. Also, Thrower announced the annual CAC Recruitment is underway for any open positions on any of the 8 CACs. A flyer was distributed. West Tampa has two ex-officio seats vacant.

New Business

Robinson submitted 15 Good Neighbor Notices for various properties.

Announcements

- Next CRA Board meeting: August 26 and September 11, 2025, at 9 a.m. at Tampa City Council
- Next CAC Meeting: September 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at HEF Community Center

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.