



**Community Redevelopment Agency**

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Tampa, Florida 33602

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**Ybor City Community Redevelopment Area  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary**

August 26, 2025, at 4 p.m.

Entrepreneur Collaborative Center, 2101 E. Palm Ave, Tampa, FL 33605

**Attendance**

<b>CAC Member (Last, First)</b>	<b>Seat</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>CAC Term Expires</b>	<b>Present or Absent</b>
Austin, Marcia	At-Large	Resident	2025	P (V)
Aye, Olivia	At-Large	Property owner	2025	P
Baia, Larissa	Ex-Officio	Hillsborough Community College	2026	A
Bailey, David	Ex-Officio	Historic Ybor City Neighborhood Civic Assoc.	2026	P
Barbas, Stephen	Ex-Officio	Ybor City Museum Society	2026	P
Barrie, Brittney	At-Large	Work/Own Barrie Hause	2025	P
DeGeorge, Tom	Ex-Officio	Ybor Merchants Assoc.	2026	A
Erion, Carisa	At-Large	Work at Casa Ybor	2025	P
McIntyre, Rich	At-Large	Business Owner	2026	P
Murphy, Michael	At-Large	Property Owner	2025	P
Pinillos, Walter	Ex-Officio	Gaybor District Coalition	2026	A
Rhodes, Carolyn Cheatham	Ex-Officio	East Ybor & Gary Neighborhood Civic Association	2026	A
Smith, Jack	At-Large	Resident	2027	P
Simmons, Rich (Chair)	At-Large	Property Owner	2025	P
Tamargo, Cynthia	Ex-Officio	Historic Social Clubs	10/2027	
Torres, Roberto	Ex-Officio	Barrio Latino Commission	4/2027	A
Trueba, Arnold	At-Large	Hillsborough County Sheriff's office	2025	A
Wojtowicz, Chris	At-Large	Property Owner	2025	A
Capitano Sr., Joe	Emeritus	Property Owner	NA	A
Costantino, Fran	Emeritus	Property Owner	NA	A

Note: Carmine Iavarone missed more than 3 meetings in year, so no longer CAC Member per the CAC Policy.

**City Staff:** Brenda Thrower, Chris Ullian, TPD Lt Houston, Nick Cox, Renee Lopez

**Other Attendees:** Lee Bell, Kelly Hays, Andrea White, Mark Rendini, Steven Navarro, Heather Sobush, Michael

English, Brian Allan

**Start Time:** Chair Rich Simmons called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. A quorum was present with nine members in attendance. Simmons welcomed Cynthia Tamargo whose application is pending appointment by the CRA Board.

**Public Comments:** Andrea White and David Bailey

**Action Item: Approval of the Ybor CAC Minutes from June 24, 2025. *There was a motion (Bailey/McIntyre) to approve June 24, 2025. Vote passed unanimously.***

### **Community Policing Updates**

- a. **TPD Update** –TPD Lieutenant Michelson attended later in the meeting and provided the monthly crime stat report. Ybor City has a new District 3 Captain as Dan College has been reassigned to District 1. Captain Usilia Emilione has already met with several Ybor businesses and was recently introduced at the Ybor City Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon. She will be attending our September meeting to be introduced to the CAC.
- b. **Homeless Outreach** – No report provided.
- c. **Code Enforcement** – Nick Cox and Renee Lopez provided a report and stats included in packet.
- d. **YES Team** – Mark Rendini provided a verbal report on activities of the YES Team over the last month which was accompanied by a written monthly report in the packet.

### **Presentations**

- a. **Tampa Ybor Streetcar Recap Presentation:** Heather Sobush, Director of Planning for HART gave power point presentation on the streetcar over the past year. The streetcar exceeded ridership record as 1,330,932 riders enjoyed riding the streetcar last year. There was a survey that went out to solicit input on whether the streetcar should remain free or have a fee. The majority responded “free”. The Fare Free program that was funded by the Downtown, Channel District and Ybor CRA’s this year was a big hit and thanked the CACs for their support of the system. The streetcar system supports many events throughout the year including Gasparilla, ReliaQuest Parade on New Year’s Eve, Knight Parade, Holiday events and Park and Ride to the Lightning Games. Sponsors include the Tampa Bay Rays, Florida Aquarium and Orlando Health. To maintain the free fares, they are looking for an additional \$700K again this year. They will apply through the CRA grant process and will pursue corporate funding as well. Several questions were asked by CAC members. No motion or action made.

### **Reports**

- I. **CAC Chair Report- Rich Simmons**
  - a. **YCDC Inc. Update** – The check fraud issue with the lost checks at the Ybor Post Office is resolved and the \$4600 was collected.
  - b. **CRA Staff Reports**
    - i. **Projects Report**– included in packet. There was discussion about the Stormwater Flooding project for Ybor South at 17<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The CAC would like to prioritize this project and consider allocating funding towards the portion that falls within the Ybor CRA 2 area. They requested again that this project be added and tracked on the monthly CRA Project Tracker.
    - ii. **Grants Report** – included in the packet. CRA Board requested that a community meeting take place before the CRA Grants Policy is approved by the Board.

- iii. **Housing Report** – There have been no applications. Thrower said that Real Estate is exploring properties in both CRA 1 and 2 for strategic acquisition.
- iv. **Manager Meeting** – Thrower announced CAC Recruitment is underway and encouraged any CAC member that is eligible to complete a CAC application to be re-appointed.

**II. New Business /Announcements**

- a. Next CRA Board meetings- September 11 at 9 am
- b. Next CAC meeting – September 23, 2025

Chair Simmons adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

A video recording of this meeting can be found on <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofTampaCRA>.