

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

January 28, 2025, at 4 p.m.

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

I. Attendance

CAC Member (Last, First)	Seat	Organization	CAC Term Expires	Present or Absent
Austin, Marcia	At-Large	Resident	2025	P
Aye, Olivia	At-Large	Property owner	2025	P
Baia, Larissa	Ex-Officio	Hillsborough Community College	2026	P
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
Calzon, Manny	Ex-Officio	Historic Social Clubs	2026	P
DeGeorge, Tom	Ex-Officio	Ybor Merchants Assoc.	2026	P
Erion, Carisa	At-Large	Work at Casa Ybor	2025	P
Iavarone, Carmine	At-Large	Restaurant/Property Owner	2026	A
McIntyre, Rich	At-Large	Business Owner	2026	P
Murphy, Michael	At-Large	Property Owner	2025	P
Pinillos, Walter	Ex-Officio	Gaybor District Coalition	2026	P
Rhodes, Carolyn Cheatham	Ex-Officio	East Ybor & Gary Neighborhood Civic Association	2026	P
Simmons, Rich (Chair)	At-Large	Property Owner	2025	P
Trueba, Arnold	At-Large	Hillsborough County Sheriff's office	2025	P
Wojtowicz, Chris	At-Large	Property Owner	2025	P
Capitano Sr., Joe	Emeritus	Property Owner	NA	A
Costantino, Fran	Emeritus	Property Owner	NA	P (v)

Other Attendees: Lee Bell, Jason Stewart, Jack Smith

City Staff: Brenda Thrower, Chris Ullian, Captain Dan College, Mike Peterson, Michael Perkins

Start Time: Chair Rich Simmons called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. A quorum was present with 17 members in attendance and 2 absent.

- II. **Action Item:** Approval of the Ybor CAC Minutes from January 28, 2025. The minutes were offered for review and comment. Hearing no comments, Chair Simmons entertained a motion to approve. ***There was a motion (Wojtowicz/Baia) to approve January 28, 2025, CAC meeting minutes. Vote passed unanimously.***
- III. Public Comment:
- Lee Bell, Ybor Chamber, announced the 78th Annual Fiesta Day on February 22, 2025.
- IV. Community Policing Updates
- **Tampa Police-** Captain College reported on the monthly crime stats. In terms of district crime, the numbers are good, with crime remaining low. Burglaries are still an issue, particularly with cell phone theft and pick pockets. Other than that, he is pleased with the numbers for Ybor. It's Gasparilla time in Tampa so TPD is focused on event safety for all upcoming parades. The Knight Parade is February 7 so there will be enhanced patrols for that event as well. Barrie asked about the street closure time for the Knight Parade and its 1-2 pm in the afternoon. Bailey said that porch pirates are still a nuisance in the neighborhood but its being reported. Simmons asked about graffiti as he has noticed more tagging going on. TPD continues to follow up but need to catch the perpetrator in action which is a challenge. Any video surveillance of this activity should be sent to TPD.
 - **Homeless Liaison** – Captain College reported on homeless situation, since Officer House is actively working alone today on homeless remediation. She has been breaking up several camps. Outreach efforts to the homeless remain a challenge since folks are not seeking help or responding to assistance. It would be helpful to engage more partners in addressing the ongoing situation. Bailey mentioned that homeless/vagrants are aggressively approaching Ashley furniture employees on Centro Ybor property.
 - **Code Enforcement** – Mike Peterson reported on the Ybor Parking Lot stats. There has been a significant increase in compliance from the private property operators with providing security personnel at the lots. Next Thursday will mark the 6-month sunset for the parking lots to come into compliance ordered by the magistrate. If they do not comply, then fines will be issued to the operators. McIntyre asked about the dumpsters with overflow trash and who reports it. Code will report this to Solid Waste. Also, what is the best way to deter graffiti in the district. Should it be painted over immediately? Rhodes said there is graffiti at the Broadway Bar east of 22nd Street. Camera surveillance is very helpful, but it should be called in and investigated before painting over it.
 - **YES Team** – Jason Steward provided a detailed YES Team Activity report this month since Mark Rendini is out due to a death in the family. He announced that Mark Rendini was promoted to the YES Team Manager and Steven Navarro was promoted to Operations Supervisor for nighttime ambassador duty. Stewart said that YES Team has noticed more graffiti too and encouraged owners and community to help by reporting it. We need all hands-on deck to combat the problem districtwide. He announced that Block by Block is

implementing a new updated platform for reporting that will include heat maps and hot spots for activities. The Ybor reports will look a little different in the future.

Special Presentation– Ybor Communications Update - Jack Smith, HCP Associates

Jack Smith presented a power point presentation recapping the communications activities from 2024 which was included in the packet. He spoke about the brand transition and migration of the social media to Tampa CRA, which will help expand our reach and grow social media followers. HCP will be working with Tampa CRA on their annual report, social media and communication projects. This will be in addition to the annual contract work for Ybor CRA that is in their final year. The CAC inquired about sharing the videos so they can cross promote positive news/content about Ybor City.

Reports

a. CAC Chair Report- Rich Simmons

- i. **YCDC Inc. Update** - YCDC is still processing paver orders and no significant impact on paver orders. The budget stays around \$16K. We are still planning on scheduling a visioning workshop in near future.

b. CRA Staff Reports

- i. **Projects Report**– Nick Bennett, CRA Project Coordinator, introduced himself to the CAC since first time attending the meeting. He explained his role, team and the project tracking report that is updated monthly. He highlighted certain projects like Phase 2 of the Bricking Project. We have \$550K budgeted for Phase 2, the next 2 blocks from 17th to 19th Streets. This phase will need to be bid out. Barrie asked about the status of the stormwater project if there is a funding for the solution. She requested it stay on the list since its still a problem. Staff to follow up with Stormwater staff to find out if it made the CIP list. Barrie also asked about the status of the lighting plan for Ybor south, particularly on 4th Avenue and to inquire about it with Jan Washington at mobility. Bennett provided an update on the street name signage program and the contractor is almost completed. Thrower mentioned staff is working on the CRP update for both Ybor CRA I and II. Also, the Centennial Park upgrade is still a priority project.
- ii. **Grants Report** – included in the packet.
- iii. **Housing Report** – There was a question about strategic acquisition for housing. No update but staff is working with real estate to identify available properties. The housing report shows no activity with housing applications, so no applications have been received. Rhodes asked if staff would come to their meeting and share the information.
- iv. **Manager Meeting** – Thrower mentioned the new ex-officio CAC members that are starting the application process. She mentioned CAC Training scheduled on March 10th from 4:30 to 7 p.m. to be help at the ECC again this year. Training meant for new members, but current members are welcomed to attend too but won't get another

binder. Lastly, the CRA managers are moving downtown to the 2nd floor and welcomed all to visit her downtown or she will come to you.

II. **Announcements/ New Business**

- Bailey reported on the leave behind items along the CSX Railroad, TECO and contractors that need to be reminded to clean up after their work.
- Barrie announced 14th Street will be closed due to Gas Worx in coming weeks.
- Rhodes asked if the pressure washing contractor is cleaning the curbs on Palm Avenue. Staff will inquire but there are other contractors doing that work so not sure if it's our contractor.
- Next CRA Board Meeting is February 13, 2025, at 9 a.m. at City Hall Chambers
- Next Ybor CAC meeting will be February 25, 2025, at 4 pm at the ECC.
- Barrie announced that Brenda Thrower has a birthday tomorrow and the CAC wished her a Happy Birthday.

Chair Simmons adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.