



**Ybor City Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Summary
When: March 26, 2024, at 4 p.m.
Where: Entrepreneur Collaborative Center
2101 E. Palm 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	Lt. Colin McCoy
Michael Murphy - <i>At-Large</i>	Steven Barbas - <i>YCMS</i>	John Fernandez	Offc. James Wilcher
Arnold Trueba- <i>At-Large/HCSO</i>	Walter Pinillos – <i>Gaybor</i>	Alex Awad	Offc. Dayna Felipe
Olivia Aye – <i>At -Large</i>	Carolyn Rhodes- <i>HEYGNA</i>	Ben Allushuski	Offc. Jeremy Jefferson
Brittney Barrie – <i>At-Large</i>	Tom DeGeorge- <i>YMA</i>		Srgt. Vinny Leto
Carisa Erion- <i>At-Large</i>	Larissa Baia- <i>HCC</i>	Jason Stewart	Corp. Vanessa Wright
Fran Costantino - <i>Emeritus</i>	Cristal Lastra - <i>Social Clubs</i>	Mike Petersen	Rene Lopez
CAC Members Absent		Guests	
Damon Shiver - <i>YCCC</i>		Andrea White	Bruce McIntyre
David Bailey - <i>HYNCA</i>		Lee Bell	Chip Williams
Joseph Capitano Sr. - <i>Emeritus</i>	CAC Member Virtual/Call	Jack Smith	Diahara Trane
Chris Wojtowicz – <i>At-Large</i>	Marcia Austin – <i>At-Large</i>	Matt Sauvron	
Peter Wright – <i>At-Large</i>			

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The Ybor CRA Community Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting by Chairperson Rich Simmons. A quorum was present. Roundtable introductions were made, and member roll call was taken.
- II. **Public Comment (3 minutes):** None
- III. **Action Item:**
Approval of Ybor CAC Minutes of February 27, 2024: The minutes were offered for review and comment. Hearing no comments, Chair Simmons entertained a motion to approve. ***There was a motion (Welch/Rhodes) to approve the February 2024 minutes. The vote was unanimously approved.***
- IV. **Community Policing Reports**
 - a. **Tampa Police Report:** Lieutenant Colin McCoy, the Ybor evening shift commander, introduced himself and addressed the CAC members. He commented on the shooting that took place in the Centro Ybor Parking Garage that stemmed from an argument among three people who visiting from Ocala. The incident took place around 2:40 a.m. and the officers on 7th Avenue heard the shots and responded immediately. The shooter was arrested, and the victims were

transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. There was a question about TPD deployment and if there are enough officers. Ybor City has many officers working weekends and evenings. Rich Simmons mentioned that he recently met Ken Stapleton, a consultant who specializes in assessing districts and developing community safety action plans. The Lieutenant recommended that this information be shared with Captain College.

- b. **Homeless Liaison** – Officer Jasmine House reported on the general condition of the homeless and the Ybor Library has become a hot spot. The team has adjusted their hours to early evening to address and provide outreach services.
- c. **Enhanced Code Enforcement Report:** Renee Lopez, Code Enforcement Officer, provided report that was emailed to the CAC members. He went over complaint-driven and initiated complaints and asked if there were questions. He also mentioned that the parking lots are continuing to be monitored by the joint task force (Code and TPD together).
- d. **YES! Team Report:** Jason Stewart, Block by Block Manager, was at a national conference in San Francisco so no verbal report was provided. The detailed picture report on the YES Team operations over the past month was included in the agenda packet.

V. **Special Presentations:**

- a. **Ybor City South Flooding Study:** Alex Awad and Ben Allushuski, Tampa Stormwater Department, were present. Ben presented a power point presentation regarding the results from the study that was conducted in Ybor City CRA 2 along 5th Avenue and 17th Street outside of the El Puerto Restaurant. The study provided computer model generated data on conditions and how to relieve street flooding in the area. The recommendation included major improvements to the underground drainage system to route water to the Ybor Channel in the amount of \$15.1 million. Part of the area is in Ybor City CRA 2 and the other is in the City so there would be shared costs between the City and CRA. A less expensive option is to create retention ponds but there is no land available in the historic district for this purpose. Therefore, the best solution is to improve underground pipes. There were questions about funding this project since new development is putting pressure on the old system and creating the problem. A copy of the study and this power point will be available on the webpage. No action was taken by the CAC at this time.
- b. **CRA Land and Property Acquisition Process** – John Fernandez, City of Tampa Real Estate Department, introduced himself and shared a power point presentation on the process involved in purchasing property in the CRA district. He explained the role of his department, to pursue land acquisition opportunities, on behalf of the CRA. He further explained the steps to acquire targeted properties as well as to conduct a general assessment of available properties in a CRA district. He explained that appraisals are required to be done by the City, and if the property market value exceeds \$500K, two appraisals are required. The CRA Manager is responsible for making the request for an appraisal to the City Real Estate Department. There are several due diligence requirements to complete before a closing take place on a property, such as a Phase 1 environmental

assessment. There was a question about the property on 8th Avenue that was brought up at the last CAC meeting. Mr. Fernandez did reach out to the owner, and he is willing to sell his property. The next step would be to conduct an appraisal. There was discussion about the purpose of the acquisition being for affordable housing and only one living space is currently there. Some members did not find that a good enough reason to acquire it. Chair Simmons said he has not seen the inside of the building but would like to. The potential redevelopment of the building has not been assessed. No action was taken by the CAC.

VI. Reports

a. CAC Chairman's Report: Rich Simmons

- **CRA Board Meeting Recap:** Simmons summarized the March 21 CRA Board meeting and his presentation to the Board highlighting Ybor City. He mentioned the Resident and Worker Survey and provided a copy of the report to the CRA Board. Several compliments were made about the report and his presentation was very well received.
- **YCDC Inc. update-** The organization will be resuming meetings later this Spring/Summer to continue working on bylaws, mission, vision, and branding. CRA staff provided the YCDC Inc. documents on a hard drive and he is safekeeping it.

b. CRA Manager Report- Brenda Thrower

- **Corine Linebrink Retirement** - Thrower announced that long time co-worker for the Ybor CRA/YCDC retired last week and will be missed. Many compliments were expressed about Corine's dedication to Ybor City over the years.
- **Ybor CRA Office** - The CRA Office at 2015 East 7th Avenue will be closing at the end of April and the staff is moving to the 2nd floor of the Tampa Municipal Office Building at 306 East Jackson Street. This move is part of the reorganization to house all Community Redevelopment department staff in one location.
- **New CAC Member** – Carmine Iavarone, Ybor restaurant owner, was approved by the CRA Board as an At-Large member and will be joining our meetings next month.
- **CAC Member Orientation** – The next CAC Member orientation is next Monday, April 1 from 4:30 -7 p.m. here at the ECC. We had a strong showing yesterday, March 25 and there is still time to sign up if you didn't make it.

Unfinished Business

- **Nighttime Economy Market Study-** Tom DeGeorge talked about studying the economics of the nighttime industry since several businesses have moved out or closed in Ybor. He would like to explore hiring a consultant to conduct an economic market study. Thrower said that the city has an Economic Development Department and that she would reach out to the director to inquire about this type of study and report back.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Next Ybor CAC Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 4 p.m. at the ECC.