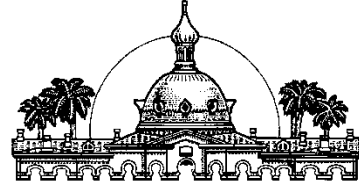


## 5-Year Consolidated Plan – Public Meeting #2

Ruskin/Wimauma Area  
South County Service Center  
February 17, 2011  
6:00PM



### Summary:

#### Ruskin/Wimauma

Hillsborough County is in the process of developing a Five Year Consolidated Plan FY 2011-2016 to create a strategic and unified vision for HUD funding over the next five years. In order to arrive at this vision Hillsborough County is conducting a series of public workshops to allow for public input and comments related to the Five Year Plan.

On February 17, 2011 the County conducted the second of six workshops which was located in the Ruskin/Wimauma Area at the South County Service Center.

In an effort to provide an environment that would allow for all attendees to be heard a two tier approach was conducted. The first was in the form of a fill-able survey. The second was through an open discussion where citizens were asked to discuss issues and concerns publicly.

### Community Survey

The survey allowed for attendees to rank eligible activities from 0 “no need” to 5 “highest need.” Activities were divided in to six categories including: Public Facilities and Improvements, Public Services, Housing Rehabilitation, Other CDBG Activities, Economic Development Activities, and Homeless Services. The surveys also addressed public opinions and information for housing and other statistical information.

### Survey Results

Through the course of this second public workshop there were a total of 6 respondents to the Community Survey. Their results produced *category* ranking scores between 3.6 and 4.6. Out of the six *categories* the public responded that activities in Economic Development Activities had the strongest need with an average overall score of 4.6 out of 5. The Lowest averaged ranked *category* was Public Facilities and Improvements at 3.6 out of 5. The highest average ranked *activities* were Loans/Grants for Business Development Activities, and Homeless Services for Youth (under 18 years of age), with a rank of 5 in both categories. The lowest average ranked *activity* was Public Parking Facilities with a rank of 2.3.

### Details in each category are as follows:

- Public Facilities – Average 3.6

Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Ranking
Youth Centers	4.4

Lowest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Ranking
Public Parking Facilities	2.3

- Public Services – Average 4.2

Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Ranking
Homeownership Assistance	5

<b>Lowest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Ranking</b>
Screening For Lead-Based Paint/Lead Hazards Poison	2.7
- Housing Rehabilitation – 3.7	
<b>Highest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Rehab; Multi-Unit Residential	4.3
<b>Lowest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Multi-Family House	3.3
Public Housing Modernization	3.3
Lead-Based/Lead Hazard Test/Abatement	3.3
- Other CDBG Activates – Average 3.7	
<b>Highest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Tenant-based Rental assistance	4.3
<b>Lowest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Construction of Single-Family Housing	3.0
- Economic Development Activities – Average 4.6	
<b>Highest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Loans/Grants for Business Development Activities	5
<b>Lowest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Streetscaping for Commercial Districts	4.4
- Homeless Services – Average 3.6	
<b>Highest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Youth (Under 18 years of age)	4.8
<b>Lowest Ranking Activity(s)</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>
Veterans	4.0
Victims of Domestic Violence	4.0

Source: Hillsborough County Affordable Housing Department: Community Survey February 2011

### *Housing*

Of the residents surveyed, the majority responded that renting is more affordable than home ownership within Hillsborough County. Also, when purchasing a home, surveys showed that a family of four making \$54,000 annually, prior to taxes, could afford to pay "\$125,000-\$185,000" for a home (although 2 respondents did not answer). The majority affordable rent range is from \$650-\$850.

### *Respondent Information*

There were 6 respondents (3 male, 2 female, and one did not respond). These respondents came from two different zip codes; 33598 and 33570. These residents have lived in Hillsborough County between 7 and 40 years, with an average of 24.9 years. Of the respondents 3 were White, 2 were Hispanic/Latino, and one did not respond. The median age categories of residents were 51 to 61. Income ranges differed significantly, with one (1) respondent from each the \$20,000 to \$34,000, \$35,000 to 49,000, \$50,000

to \$69,000, and \$70,000 to \$99,000 income groups. However one respondent did not respond. The majority of respondents were very familiar with Community Development, 4 respondents were “*very familiar*,” 1 respondent “*Not familiar at all*,” and 1 respondent did not answer.

### **Open Discussion**

During the open discussion citizens were asked to speak their mind on issues and concerns affecting their respective community. Through this process many residents spoke out. A number of issues were brought to the Project Teams attention. Listed below are issues that were discussed during the open discussion:

#### **Community Needs**

- Public Facilities for Children/Youth
  - Need for after school programs
  - US 41 & 19<sup>th</sup> (Property) – Vacant Big Box
    - Potential for adaptive reuse for youth; opportunity for athletic fields (soccer, softball, etc.)
  - Nothing for youth to do in area
  - Need for transportation to/from afterschool program
  - Far distances to and from school (> 1 mile)
  - Lack of bike route; mostly pedestrian activity (foot traffic)
  - Need central location for youth
  - Existing Recreation Center is over capacity; lack of funding
  - Sidewalk only on one side of the street (Shell Pointe Rd.)
- Transportation
  - Lack of transportation center w/route to/from Tampa (i.e., access to jobs, commercial, etc.)
  - No shelter, etc. at transfer
- Water/Sewer
  - Sewer upgrade needed; especially to attract development
  - Need lift station
  - Water/sewer improvements needed to support potential “Downtown” Ruskin
- Identity/Place
  - Landscape/streetscape improvements
  - US 41 is local road, not thoroughfare – need for traffic calming
  - Façade improvements
  - Need safe, walkable downtown
  - “Hometown” feel
- Healthcare
  - Beds for mental health patients/critical intervention facility
- Housing
  - Address Chinese drywall
  - Address vacancy/foreclosure – need for foreclosure prevention
  - Renter’s market
    - Counseling/education for both buyers and renters
- Employment
  - Need for training
  - Support trades community
    - E.g. Construction – new/innovative skills and certifications

- E.g. Green building industry
  - Attract employment so that people can live AND work in community
    - Local business/economic nodes
    - Self-sustaining
    - E.g. DRI – sitting/waiting for development
- Homelessness
  - Migratory population
  - Mostly addressed local (neighbors support/help)
- Senior Needs/Services
  - Mostly addressed in Sun City Center
  - Good coordination between communities

### **Conclusion**

Although there are many categories that citizens of the Ruskin/Wimauma Area feel are important. There are a few items that were stressed throughout the meeting as being of the highest priority:

- Youth Centers and Youth Services
- Pedestrian oriented development and design
- Job Training
- Downtown development/redevelopment
- Multi-Modal and Accessible Transportation
- Utility upgrades to attract business

For questions regarding the 5-Year Consolidated Plan, please contact Karen Collins at 813.274.6605 or [collinsk@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:collinsk@hillsboroughcounty.org).

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 Tampa, FL 33619

More information can be seen at:

[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/affordablehousingoffice/5yearplan.cfm](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/affordablehousingoffice/5yearplan.cfm)