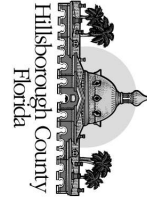


What is the Office of Neighborhood Relations?

The Office of Neighborhood Relations is responsible for working with neighborhood/civic associations, community groups, county departments and other organizations, in order to build partnerships that improve, enhance, and preserve the quality of life in Hillsborough County neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Relations program:

- *Disseminates information about County government and related subjects to neighborhood associations.*
- *Works to build neighborhood partnerships involving Hillsborough County, municipalities, Sheriff's Office, School Board, and others.*
- *Assists citizens/groups in developing neighborhood associations.*
- *Coordinates Neighborhood Partnership Meetings to improve citizen involvement in County and other government services.*
- *Provides training and technical assistance to neighborhoods.*
- *Assists neighborhoods in developing improvement plans and neighborhood improvement teams.*
- *Provides mini-grants to neighborhood organizations. (including neighborhood mini-grants, low volume drip irrigation grants, neighborhood clean-up grants, and tree planting grants).*
- *Conducts outreach for community based planning initiatives.*



Office of Neighborhood Relations
P. O. Box 1110
Tampa, Florida 33601



Neighborhood Bill of Rights



**A Guide to Participating in
Planning and Development Issues
in Your Neighborhood**



Neighborhood Bill of Rights

Participating In Planning And Development Issues In Your Neighborhood

Your Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that neighborhoods have an interest in participating in planning and development issues which affect them, and that's what the Neighborhood Bill of Rights program is all about.

Under this program, neighborhood groups get a better opportunity to participate as early as possible in land use matters being considered by the County Commission.

Notices of rezoning applications and other land use changes are sent early in the review process, and to more citizens. Public input is taken at the start of the evaluation, not just near the end. That means our residents not only have a chance to be more involved in land management issues, but also can help determine what our community looks like.

Neighborhood Registry

The cornerstone of the Neighborhood Bills of Rights program is the Registry of

Neighborhood Organizations and Civic Associations. Your group is invited to register the name and address of your principal representative, as well as the geographical boundaries of the association. The registry is maintained by the Office of Neighborhood Relations.

Applicants for rezoning, land excavation permits, alcoholic beverage permits, land use plan map modifications and other land use changes in unincorporated Hillsborough County have 20 days (15 days for Personal Appearances before the Board of County Commissioners) from the application filing cut-off date to notify all associations within a mile of the project. These notices include general information about the petition and instructions on how to submit comments.

Land use decisions are made up of a long list of factors. There are many conditions on which compromises can be reached, such as setbacks, buffers, densities, and allowed uses. When there is a consensus, the project often is far more successful than one which did not enjoy community support.

Organizations on the registry are also added to the Office of Neighborhood Relations mailing list. This means your group will receive a newsletter and information on other county services.

What's Considered A Neighborhood Organization?

We realize that neighborhood organizations range from formally incorporated associations that are very active and meet regularly, to small groups of homeowners who have banded together for one issue or purpose. All are eligible for the neighborhood registry.

If your group is not incorporated, you must be able to show it represents at least half of the residents in a specific area.

Other groups, such as umbrella organizations, service clubs, and special taxing districts, also can sign up.

How To Sign Up

Call the Office of Neighborhood Relations or visit our website and ask for an application for the Registry of Neighborhood Organizations. We will be happy to answer your questions and give you more information.

**Hillsborough County
Neighborhood Relations**
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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners