

## **The Mayor's Vision for East Tampa**

Our Goal... “Transform East Tampa into a community of vibrant residential, business, recreational, social and cultural life through the implementation of a strategic economic development model, focused on neighborhood assets that can be replicated in other challenged areas within the City of Tampa.”

In some parts of the City, years of decline, neglect and lack of investment have created barriers to new development. This Strategic Focus Area strives to overcome these barriers by focusing a wide-range of resources to generate real economic development. If successful, this urban revitalization effort could emerge as a national model. East Tampa, the focus of this initial effort, has a large residential core, easy access to three interstates, new business and housing developments, and proximity to downtown Tampa and the waterfront.

In FY04, the City created the East Tampa Development Division to focus exclusively on the economic and community revitalization of the area. Also, in FY04, the City launched an aggressive campaign to root out crime, prostitution, drugs and unsightly structures. Operation Commitment demonstrated the City's commitment to East Tampa and set the stage for continued revitalization efforts.

Building upon these initial efforts, the City will direct investments in East Tampa to support public safety, private investment and community revitalization. Community Policing will continue to play a central role in making East Tampa safe and secure. The construction of a facility to house the Tampa Police Department District III Division will support this role. A Tax Increment Financing District will be created to reinvest dollars towards needed infrastructure, sidewalks, lighting, and community facilities. Twenty-second (22nd) Street and 29th Street will be targeted for specific infrastructure and redevelopment activities. . Partnerships with the Florida Department of Transportation will be explored wherever possible to achieve greater overall results.

A Community Redevelopment Plan, market analysis and economic development plan will provide strategies for long-term economic development revolving around three key initiatives:

1. Making strategic public investment (e.g., police headquarters, parks, roads, etc.);
2. Promoting policies and land-use regulations that foster balanced residential and commercial growth; and
3. Developing incentives that will leverage quality development.

These strategies will help ensure that economic development and growth is achieved while preserving the residential character of the community and enhancing the quality of life for the residents of East Tampa. ([http://www.tampagov.net/dept\\_mayor/strategic\\_areas/](http://www.tampagov.net/dept_mayor/strategic_areas/))

### **Other Descriptions of East Tampa**

“Florida House District 59 is among the poorest in the state, and its residents tend to look to government for help. Whoever represents them needs to champion their concerns, which include

affordable housing, health care and economic development. But the individual must also not create unrealistic expectations that government can solve all the district's problems.

“The district covers Palm River, Clair-Mel City, Progress Village, the university area, east Tampa, West Tampa and portions of Temple Terrace.” (Editorial, Tampa Tribune, August 16, 2006).

“Record-low financing and urban renewal have not reversed the underlying blight in Tampa's predominantly black neighborhoods. The six square miles of east Tampa features a deteriorating housing base, a third of the city's illegal dumps and twice the rate of poverty as Tampa has citywide. Fewer than 5 percent of the properties in 2003 had a taxable value greater than \$100,000. It accounts for 6 percent of the city's area but 17 percent of all code violations. In some neighborhoods, 40 percent of the homes were built before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor - not itself bad, but the incomes there cannot sustain home repairs. Every fourth home lacks a car, and more than twice as many properties are vacant as those housing a business.” (“Black community deserves better,” John Hill, St. Petersburg Times, April 8, 2006)