

## Survey Background Information

### **Q1: Should the city adopt an Adaptation Action Area for South of Gandy in the comprehensive plan to encourage prioritization of funding for hazard mitigation projects, like stormwater improvements?**

An Adaptation Action Area is a special district that is used to prioritize funding in areas that are vulnerable to rising sea levels and experience coastal flooding due to extreme high tides and storm surge. The Adaptation Action Area can be used not only as an internal prioritization factor for the city's capital improvement plan, but also to guide land use and zoning decisions. Potential infrastructure improvements could include things such as improved stormwater infrastructure, roads, sidewalks, trails, parks, and more.

Answering "Yes" to this question would indicate support for this new community designation which would give more priority to infrastructure improvements for the neighborhoods within the Adaptation Action Area. Answering "No" would indicate that you do not support the use of an additional tool to spotlight funding infrastructure projects in the neighborhood.

### **Q2: Should the city increase one and two family stormwater retention on-site?**

Currently, the city's code requirement for single-family and duplex homes states that improvements that cover more than 50% of the lot in impervious surfaces (e.g., driveways, walkways, building footprints) must provide stormwater mitigation on the property. This is more stringent than state or most other local laws. Permeable material is important in stormwater mitigation as it allows water to collect and filter directly down through the ground instead of potentially flooding and collecting pollutants which then deposit into nearby bodies of water not meant for stormwater collection. The city's current policy is unique in the state, as most local governments exempt one- and two-family infill from mitigating their stormwater impact. (This does not include new subdivisions.) Stormwater mitigation provides for more robust infrastructure, but also comes with an increase in cost for building or renovating properties.

Answering "Yes" to this question would indicate support for decreasing the non-permeable material threshold that triggers stormwater mitigation (e.g., from 50% lot coverage to 40%), thus creating increasing the number of properties that may need to mitigate for stormwater impacts. Answering "No" would indicate satisfaction with current rule as sufficiently stringent in easing stormwater impact due to single-family and duplex development.

### **Q3: Do you support the acquisition of property for stormwater projects and/or greenspace?**

Acquisition of property refers to the voluntary sale of properties to the local government. This does not refer to eminent domain or the involuntary taking of property. Local governments can receive federal grant money to acquire properties that are at low points in a neighborhood that can act as a stormwater resource or green space. Local governments can also improve their community rating score (CRS), which potentially can decrease flood insurance premiums, **by** by acquiring properties that are known as "repetitive loss properties."

A Repetitive Loss (RL) property is any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling ten-year period, since 1978. Historically, repeatedly flooded properties have accounted for just 1 percent of properties within the National Flood Insurance Program policies but about 25-30 percent of flood claims.

Answering “Yes” to this question would indicate support for the city to using funding to purchase land in vulnerable areas to create more greenspace. Answering “No” to this question would indicate a preference that the city does not purchase or redevelop land for greenspace in your neighborhood.

**Q4: Do you support the establishment of a special assessment to pay for projects such as stormwater improvements, sidewalks, trails, parks, etc. South of Gandy Boulevard?**

Some neighborhoods and communities choose to levy a special assessment or create a special taxing district for themselves in order to pay for capital improvements or programs they desire in their area. Local examples include the Tampa Streetcar in Ybor City and the Downtown Special Services District.

Answering “Yes” to this question indicates support for a special taxing district or assessment, resulting in an increase in taxes and providing a dedicated funding source for infrastructure improvements -desired by the community. Answering “No” to this question indicates that you do not support an increase in taxes as a way of funding infrastructure improvements.

**Q5: Do you support the creation of a community redevelopment agency to fund special taxing district to pay for projects such as stormwater improvements, sidewalks, trails, parks, etc.?**

A Community Redevelopment Area involves creating an improvement district for a neighborhood. Under Florida law (Chapter 163, Part III), local governments are able to designate areas as Community Redevelopment Areas when certain conditions exist. Examples of conditions that can support the creation of a CRA include, but are not limited to:

- The presence of substandard structures
- A shortage of affordable housing
- Inadequate infrastructure such as wastewater or stormwater systems
- Insufficient roadways

A CRA uses a tool known as Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) to fund improvements in the area. The taxable value of all real property in the CRA is determined as of a particular tax year (base year). Taxing authorities, like the city and county, continue to receive property tax revenues based on the base year values. These revenues are available for general government purposes. However, any tax revenues from increases in real property value, referred to as the “increment,” are deposited into the CRA Trust Fund and dedicated to the projects within the redevelopment area. CRA’s are not tax increases; they simply capture city and county taxes and put them in a trust fund.

Answering “Yes” to this question indicates support for the establishment of a CRA, resulting in the community’s ability to keep their taxes in the community. Answering “No” to this question indicates that you do not support a CRA and would prefer other options to funding community improvements.