

## Survey Background Information

### **Q1: Do you support a more stringent requirement that the area below the base flood elevation remain open (elevated on stilts or piers), instead of garage space, in the “Coastal A” Zone?**

Implementing a more stringent requirement to keep the area below the base flood elevation open, elevated on stilts or piers rather than using it for enclosed garage space, serves as a proactive measure against flood damage. This approach not only reduces the risk of property damage during flooding but also enhances the resilience of structures against future extreme weather events. Changes in these requirements would apply to new developments and substantial improvements (improvements to the structure that exceed 50% of the structure’s market value).

Answering "Yes" to this question indicates support this type of flood-resistant construction method. Answering "No" to this question indicates a preference for traditional construction practices that may be more vulnerable to flood damage or other approaches to resilient design.

### **Q2: Do you support amending the code to require an additional two feet of freeboard above Base Flood Elevation (BFE)? (Two additional feet of space above the current design flood elevation, which is BFE+1)**

Increasing the freeboard requirement by an additional two feet above the current design flood elevation provides an added layer of protection against flood damage. This proactive approach helps mitigate the risks associated with rising sea levels and extreme weather events, reducing the likelihood of property damage and enhancing community resilience. Increasing the freeboard would apply to new developments and substantial improvements. This can be achieved through elevating the lowest habitable floor of the structure, adding fill dirt, or a combination of both. Requiring an additional two feet of freeboard contributes to the Community Rating System scoring and may lower flood insurance premiums.

Answering “Yes” to this question indicates support for bolstering flood resilience measures by increasing the freeboard requirement. Answering "No" to this question indicates a preference that the regulation remain the same.

### **Q3: Do you support more stringent stormwater standards, requiring all new projects to retain additional stormwater on-site?**

Capturing more stormwater on-site contributes to sustainable water management practices and mitigates the adverse impacts of urban runoff. This approach helps alleviate strain on municipal stormwater systems, reduces the risk of flooding, and enhances water quality. Stormwater mitigation projects on residential property could be small retention ponds, bioswales, use of permeable construction materials (e.g., lattice pattern concrete), and other methods that collect stormwater on site.

Answering "Yes" to this question reflects support for proactive stormwater management measures. Answering "No" to this question indicates a preference for less stringent regulations for new development.

### **Q4: Do you support the establishment of an Adaptation Action Area in the comprehensive plan to prioritize and direct funding for infrastructure into this area?**

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 can also guide land use 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 in the Adaptation Action Area. Answering “No” would indicate that you do not support the use of this tool to prioritize funding infrastructure projects in the neighborhood.

**Q5: Do you support the establishment of a CRA to help pay for infrastructure improvements?**

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 for funding community improvements.

**Q6: Do you support a special tax assessment or district to help pay for infrastructure improvements?**

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.

**Q7: Do you support the city establishing green stormwater pilot projects, such as providing rain barrels, building green streets/alleys?**

Endorsing the establishment of green stormwater pilot projects, including initiatives like installing rain barrels and creating green streets/alleys, promotes environmentally friendly stormwater management practices. These projects not only help reduce stormwater runoff but also enhance urban green spaces, improve air quality, and mitigate the urban heat island effect. A pilot project is

a small-scale test of a particular approach that, if successful, would lead to wider application of the project.

Answering "Yes" to this question demonstrates support for innovative approaches to stormwater management. Answering "No" to this question suggests a preference for traditional stormwater infrastructure.

**Q8: Do you support establishing a local historic district to maintain the character of the neighborhood? This would include adopting design guidelines for all new construction and rehabilitation of the outside of buildings; Review would be conducted in a public hearing.**

Advocating for the establishment of a local historic district aims to preserve the unique character and heritage of the neighborhood by implementing design guidelines for new construction and rehabilitation projects. This initiative ensures that any architectural changes align with the neighborhood's historical context and cultural significance, fostering a sense of community identity and pride. Adopting a local historic district will place additional regulations on not only new development but also any external changes to existing properties. Palmetto Beach's current historic district designation is federal and has no effect on the building regulations of the neighborhood. Benefits to a local historic district include access to state preservation grants, a tax year property tax exemption for rehabilitated structures, and variances to the FEMA 50% rule if the structure maintains its historic integrity.

Answering "Yes" to this question indicates support for designating Palmetto Beach as a local historic district. Answering "No" to this question suggests a preference for less stringent regulations on architectural design.

**Q10: Do you support the city focusing on 22nd Street for a specific plan that can include design guidelines, streetscape design, an evaluation of zoning for possible up-zoning, etc.?**

Supporting the city's focus on 22nd Street for a specific plan underscores a commitment to revitalizing and enhancing the area through strategic urban planning initiatives. This approach may include developing design guidelines, improving streetscape aesthetics, and evaluating zoning regulations to accommodate potential densification, thereby fostering economic development and community revitalization. Future studies and projects would heavily involve community input to achieve a collective vision for the area. This is separate and above the designation of the neighborhood as a historic district.

Answering "Yes" to this question reflects endorsement for targeted urban planning efforts for this street. Answering "No" to this question suggests a preference for a more status quo approach to redevelopment of the area.

**Q11: Do you support the city's continued efforts to obtain federal and state funding to improve the seawall and Bermuda Blvd. Streetscape?**

Endorsing the city's continued efforts to secure federal and state funding for enhancing the seawall and Bermuda Blvd. Streetscape reflects a commitment to infrastructure improvement and community beautification. These initiatives would not only bolster coastal resilience against erosion and storm surges but also enhance the aesthetic appeal and functionality of public spaces, thereby contributing to overall community well-being and safety.

Answering "Yes" to this question indicates support for targeted investment into the redevelopment of the seawall and bayfront. Answering "No" to this question suggests alternative funding priorities for other projects.