



*Sandy Murman*

February 17, 2020

HEADLINES FROM HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



*Commissioner Sandy Murman met with Girl Scout Troop 1800. The girls enjoyed asking questions and learning about the role of county government. “Every girl should be supported and encouraged. I firmly believe in building their courage, confidence and character and I’m very proud to share my experiences and encourage them to be civically involved,” said Commissioner Murman.*

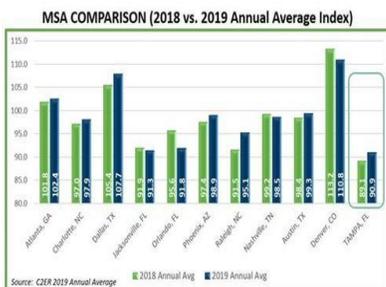
**Needle Exchange Program In Hillsborough Approved**

Hillsborough County Commissioners have agreed to a potential solution for the spread of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and opioid overdoses - a needle exchange initiative. “Florida and specifically Hillsborough County are one of the few remaining counties that are still seeing an increase in HIV cases,” said Dr. Jason Wilson, Medical Director for the Clinical Decision Unit at Tampa General Hospital. “And Florida’s been identified as a kind of hot spot for needing HIV intervention programs, specifically in Hillsborough County.”



**Tampa area's cost of living remains among the lowest**

According to the annual [Cost of Living Index \(COLI\) report](#), the Tampa metro area is one of the most affordable metros in the United States with a 2019 average annual index of 90.9. At nine points lower than the national average, the Tampa market ranked #1 among other competitive markets like Charlotte, Nashville and Atlanta. Among metros within the state of Florida, Tampa ranked #2, just slightly behind Daytona Beach, which has a cost of living of 89.9



**Commissioner Murman flips the switch to improve traffic safety**

The newly designed intersection of Race Track Road and Repron Boulevard will provide new crosswalks and pedestrian-activated signals to enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Residential and commercial traffic will benefit from reduced delay and traffic signal protected turning. Overall, the intersection is more pedestrian-friendly and provides a visual cue for motorists that there is a neighborhood nearby.



**Fletcher Avenue safer after County improvements**

Hillsborough County transportation leaders have unveiled the results of a study that proves Fletcher Avenue is safer after several improvements. Here’s a look at what the study reveals:



- The total number of vehicle crashes has reduced, as well as crash severity
- More people use crosswalks
- More people feel safe crossing Fletcher Avenue

# Hillsborough County Works for Business



Whether you are a "wannapreneur," a well-established business, or anywhere in between, Hillsborough County wants you to become our next success story. No matter your industry, size, or point in the life cycle of the company, we have resources and connections to help you collaborate, innovate, and cultivate your dreams.

Hillsborough County is growing technology and innovation startups, jobs, and private investment by strengthening the services and resources that directly support entrepreneurs through our Economic Development Innovation Initiative (EDi2).

Recognized nationally for being one of the most innovative counties in the United States for its Entrepreneur Collaborative Center (ECC), Hillsborough County operates one of the most cutting-edge county-run programs serving entrepreneurs in the country.

As the economic core of the Tampa Bay region, Hillsborough County has the potential for increased job and business growth in emerging and dynamic sectors of the global economy. The county is home to significant export industries, agriculture, defense and other specialized manufacturing, patents in health care and other fields, specialists who consult globally as well as the transit infrastructure for export. By fostering an innovation hub, County services and programs attract entrepreneurs, investors, skilled workers, and existing businesses that see benefits by locating in the county or region.

[Learn why Hillsborough County is the right place to start or grow your business](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM  
1:30 PM  
6:00 PM

BOCC Regular Meeting  
BOCC Land Use Work Shop  
Public Hearing

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## WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?

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