



**Safe Neighborhood  
South  
Apopka  
Action Plan  
October 2013**





# **South Apopka Safe Neighborhood Action Plan 2013 – 2016**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# **South Apopka Safe Neighborhood Action Plan 2013 – 2016**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Safe Neighborhoods Program targets Orange County's older and transitioning neighborhoods and is designed to assist residents reclaim their communities from crime, deterioration, and blight. The program partners citizens with the Sheriff's Office, Orange County Departments and Divisions, the private sector, community stakeholders and others to collaboratively preserve and stabilize neighborhoods.

In summer 2000, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners named South Apopka as one of the eight Safe Neighborhood communities based on characteristics that epitomize a transitioning community. South Apopka had experienced increases in crime, visual decay, declining property values and diminishing community unity. However, the community was, and still is, energized by enthusiastic residents and business owners who are committed to reclaiming their community. This combination offers the ideal setting for revitalizing South Apopka through the Safe Neighborhood Program, which is committed to partnering the necessary people, groups, agencies and organizations to ensure successful community rebuilding.

Community residents, business owners and stakeholders continue to with Orange County leaders and staff to implement an update to the existing South Apopka Safe Neighborhood Action Plan. The Action Plan provides a profile of the community, including demographic information, land use and zoning data, and community infrastructure. The plan will further define the community's core issues and propose projects and programs to address specific issues.

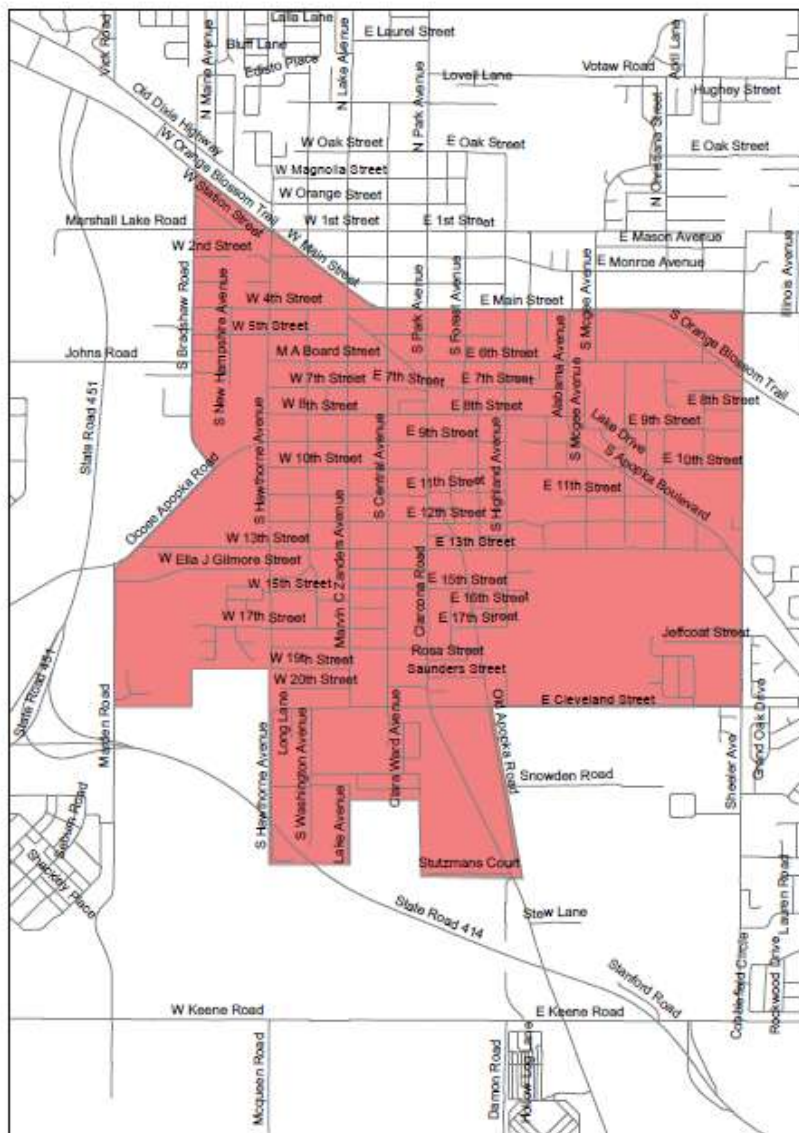
The South Apopka Safe Neighborhood Action Plan update provides goals, objectives and strategies to guide the revitalization efforts of the community over the next three years. Most importantly the plan includes action steps – a series of specific, assignable and sequential actions required to complete any strategy.

# South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

## LOCATION

The South Apopka Safe Neighborhood lies within and directly adjacent to the City of Apopka. It is located in Orange County Commission District 2, in the Northwest area of the county. The area is approximately 15 miles from downtown Orlando and is bounded by U.S. 411 to the North; Sheeler Road to the East; Cleveland Road to the South and Marden to Bradshaw Road to the West (Map 1). The area consists of property located within the City of Apopka limits and portions of unincorporated Orange County. However, most of the projects will concentrate in the unincorporated area. The South Apopka Safe Neighborhood is approximately 2.1 square miles.

South Apopka Safe Neighborhood



### **HISTORY**

South Apopka has a rich history of families and events-and is still a close community bound by common heritage. Early development occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s when lumber companies began building living quarters in South Apopka for their black employees. More blacks continued to move to the community for agricultural jobs through the 1930s, when segregation was accepted as normal. This living pattern was made official in 1937 with the passage of local laws segregating blacks from the white community. Although the laws were later rescinded, the segregation pattern remained.

In the mid-1940s, additional blacks moved to South Apopka to obtain work at a local crate mill. The crate mill was one of two major employers in the area. A large number of these blacks migrated from the cotton fields of Alabama and other Southern states with the goal of securing jobs at the crate mill. South Apopka's development was closely tied to the success of the crate mill. Eighty-two percent (82%) of South Apopka adult residents were employed during this period. Many people purchased land to build homes, businesses, churches and a school. Although South Apopka has remained predominantly a black community, through the years, a significant Hispanic and Haitian community also developed as a result of the historic availability of agricultural employment.

The closing of the crate mill and the decline of the agricultural industry because of the freezes of 1983, 1985 and 1989 contributed to the eventual deterioration of the South Apopka community. Most of South Apopka's current problems stem from this loss of employment opportunities.

Since early 1991, the South Apopka area has been the focus of an innovative and collaborative effort to rebuild a distressed community. The story of South Apopka involves citizens, community-based organizations, private industry, public agencies, the City of Apopka and Orange County. Empowerment, revitalization, partnerships, involvement and holistic service delivery were the core objectives in restoring the community.

Also in 1991, the Apopka Coalition to Improve Our Neighborhood (ACTION) was created. The primary function of this group focuses on the improvement of the South Apopka area. In the past, ACTION has taken a proactive approach to empowering the residents of the community. The residents and community organizations of South Apopka have consistently demonstrated a high level of community support and dedication to the revitalization of their neighborhood. The past efforts of ACTION and Orange County have produced effective programs such as job fairs, small business seminars and youth programs and activities. Continued efforts are needed, however, to address crime prevention, safety, beautification, and community building in South Apopka. The Safe Neighborhoods program continues the revitalization process by providing opportunities to implement projects that focus on those issues.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

The process began with a kick-off meeting to build interest in the process; and distribution of a survey developed to determine the perception of crime and assess the public safety needs of South Apopka. Participation and input continued through a series of community meetings and dialogues where citizens, church leaders, community organization representatives and business owners worked to prioritize issues, identify projects, and develop action steps for implementation. Through this process a core group of leaders emerged and continue to build capacity for further community involvement so that projects are seen through to completion.

#### Summary of Meetings

All meetings occurred at the *John H. Bridges Community Center, 445 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Apopka, FL 32703*, unless otherwise indicated. Appendix A contains raw survey results.

#### MEETING 1 – JANUARY 3, 2013

#### MEETING 2 – MARCH 14, 2013

#### MEETING 3 – JUNE 6, 2013

#### MEETING 4 – JUNE 22, 2013

#### MEETING 5 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 - DRAFT PRESENTATION TO BOARD

#### MEETING 6 – OCTOBER 3, 2013 - DRAFT PRESENTATION TO PUBLIC

Public meeting attendance was low. The second workshop had zero attendees. A severe weather event occurred on Thursday, June 6. The June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting was not posted on community reader board signs, and the mailer was received quite early. A few citizens were able to provide input after the meeting via personal communication. The draft presentation to the board was positively received; and the priority of creating a communication strategy was agreed upon. The notice for the draft presentation was also low, although the notice went out in a timely fashion and the information was posted on the reader board signs. After some explanation, the public understood how to read the Action Plan and were satisfied that it was document that set measurable goals.



**DEMOGRAPHICS**

The demographic profile for the South Apopka area is based on 2010 census data and the most recent American Community Survey (ACS). These combined sources provide information and insight into the South Apopka community. The South Apopka area is located in census Tract 176.00. *Please note: Tables A-C are comprised of information extracted from the entire Safe Neighborhood boundary using GIS analyses and 2010 Census Data. Tables D – F are based on the 2007-2011 ACS and represent a slightly smaller population as determined by the South Apopka Census Designated Place.*

Demographic information may be used to provide informational background on the South Apopka community. Characteristics for South Apopka are compared with countywide demographic data. The demographic data reviewed in this section include: Population Characteristics; Housing Characteristics; Household Income; Employment Characteristics and Educational Attainment.

**Population Characteristics:** **Table A** shows the population characteristics for the South Apopka community and Orange County. Based on the 2010 census information, the total population of South Apopka is 7,034. The census now allows individuals to identify themselves by one or more races as well as identify as being Hispanic – regardless of race. The area remains predominantly African-American, with 65.6% of the population self-reporting as Black.

**Table A:** 2010 Estimated Population Characteristics

	South Apopka		Orange County	
	%	Number	%	Number
<i>Total Population</i>		7034		1145956
<i>One Race</i>		6869		1106631
Total % White	24.2		63.6	
Total % Black	65.6		20.8	
Total % Asian	0.4		4.9	
Total % Other	7.5		6.7	
<i>Two or more Races</i>	2.3	165	3.4	39,325
Total % Hispanic Population	20.6	1452	26.9	308,244

**Notable Trends:** The population of South Apopka essentially remained the same (-0.22% population growth; 0.15% growth in households; 0.53% growth in housing units). Moreover, there was no significant gain in any single age or demographic group, with only a minor increase in the population identifying as Hispanic. In short, approximately the same amount and same demographic mix of people have lived in South Apopka over the past 10 years.

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

**Population by Age:** Characteristics are shown in **Table B**. The 2010 census estimates show that approximately thirty-three percent (33.2%) of the South Apopka residents are school-aged children ages 18 and under. Sixty-seven percent (66.8%) of the residents are 20 and older, compared to 72.8% for the countywide distribution. The drop off occurs roughly at age 20, which seems to indicate that college-aged people are leaving the area.

**Table B:** 2010 Estimated Population by Age (percentage)

Age Group	South Apopka	Orange County
5yrs and under	8.5	6.5
5 to 14 yrs	16.2	12.9
15 to 19 yrs	8.5	7.7
20 to 24 yrs	7.3	9.2
25 to 34 yrs	13.4	15.5
35 to 44 yrs	12.9	14.3
45 to 54 yrs	13.9	14.1
55 to 64 yrs	9.4	10.0
65 to 74 yrs	5.8	5.4
75 to 84 yrs	3.0	3.1
85 years and over	1.0	1.2

**Housing Characteristics:** **Table C** delineates the total number of housing units as well as the percentage of owner occupied and renter occupied housing units. Close to sixty percent (58.0%) of the residents in South Apopka reside in owner occupied homes, leaving 42 percent of the housing units as renter occupied. With an average person per household figure at 3.11, South Apopka households are more likely to be larger than the average household in Orange County. This may be attributable to the larger percentage of children in the area.

**Table C:** Housing Characteristics

	South Apopka	Orange County
Total # Housing Units	2551	487,839
Persons Per Household	3.11	2.64
Owner Occupied	58%	57.8%
Renter Occupied	42%	42.2%
Vacant		13.5%

**Notable Trends:** There has been nearly zero growth in housing stock over the past ten years. So while the vacancy rate is approximately the same as the rest of the County, there is both an absolute and comparative increase in housing stock age. A summary of available utilities and public facilities is provided below.

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

**Household Income:** Based on the 2007-2011 American Community Survey, **Table D** shows that the median household income within South Apopka is about 3500 dollars less than the Orange County median. There is only about a 3,000 dollar difference between the median and mean family incomes in South Apopka, compared to a 20,000 dollar difference Countywide. This indicates lesser disparity in the distribution of wealth in South Apopka.

**Table D:** Household Income (in dollars) and Poverty Rates

	South Apopka	Orange County
Median Worker Income	21410	26793
Median Household Income	46024	49731
Mean Household Income	49069	68054
Median Family Income	\$50303	57518
Mean Family Income	53448	78104
Poverty Rates		
All families	17.6%	11.3%
Married couple families	4.2%	5.5%
Female Householder (no husband)	31.8%	27.1%

**Notable Trends:** Generally speaking, the poverty rate shows a small decline in the South Apopka CDP; however overall poverty rates remain higher than the County as a whole. Families with related children are the most likely to experience poverty in the South Apopka CDP, with half of all families with related children under five (50.8%) living at or below poverty incomes – compared to 14.6% at the County level. It is important to note that a substantial portion of this rate is attributable to female householders (no husband present) who not only bring in a one salary to the household, but also average less in earnings a year. This trend is the throughout the County. Census data does not assess the effect of non-related individuals in the household on poverty rates.

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

**Employment Status.** Table E identifies employment status for South Apopka residents who are 16 years or older. It is important to note that these rates change, and the information below is a snapshot based on the collection date.

**Table E:** Employment Status (percentage)

	South Apopka	Orange County
Armed Forces	0	0.1
Employed	60.9*	62.8*
Unemployed	9.4*	7.2*
Not in labor force	29.7	30.0

\*The rate shown comes from a comparison to the total number of people over the age of 16. When compared to the number in the labor force, the employed number rises to 86.7%, and the unemployed number rises to 13.3%. For the county the numbers change to 89.8% and 10.2% respectively.

**Educational Attainment:** Table F identifies the level of educational attainment for South Apopka adult residents (25yrs and over). The table shows approximately a third (32.8%) of the population in South Apopka does have a high school diploma. This represents an increase in high school graduation rates for the CDP, but comparatively few residents (less than 15%) have earned any degrees past high school, compared to 40% in Orange County as a whole. Educational attainment is a determinant is employment and income, as reflected in the relative poverty of this community.

**Table F:** Educational Attainment (percentage)

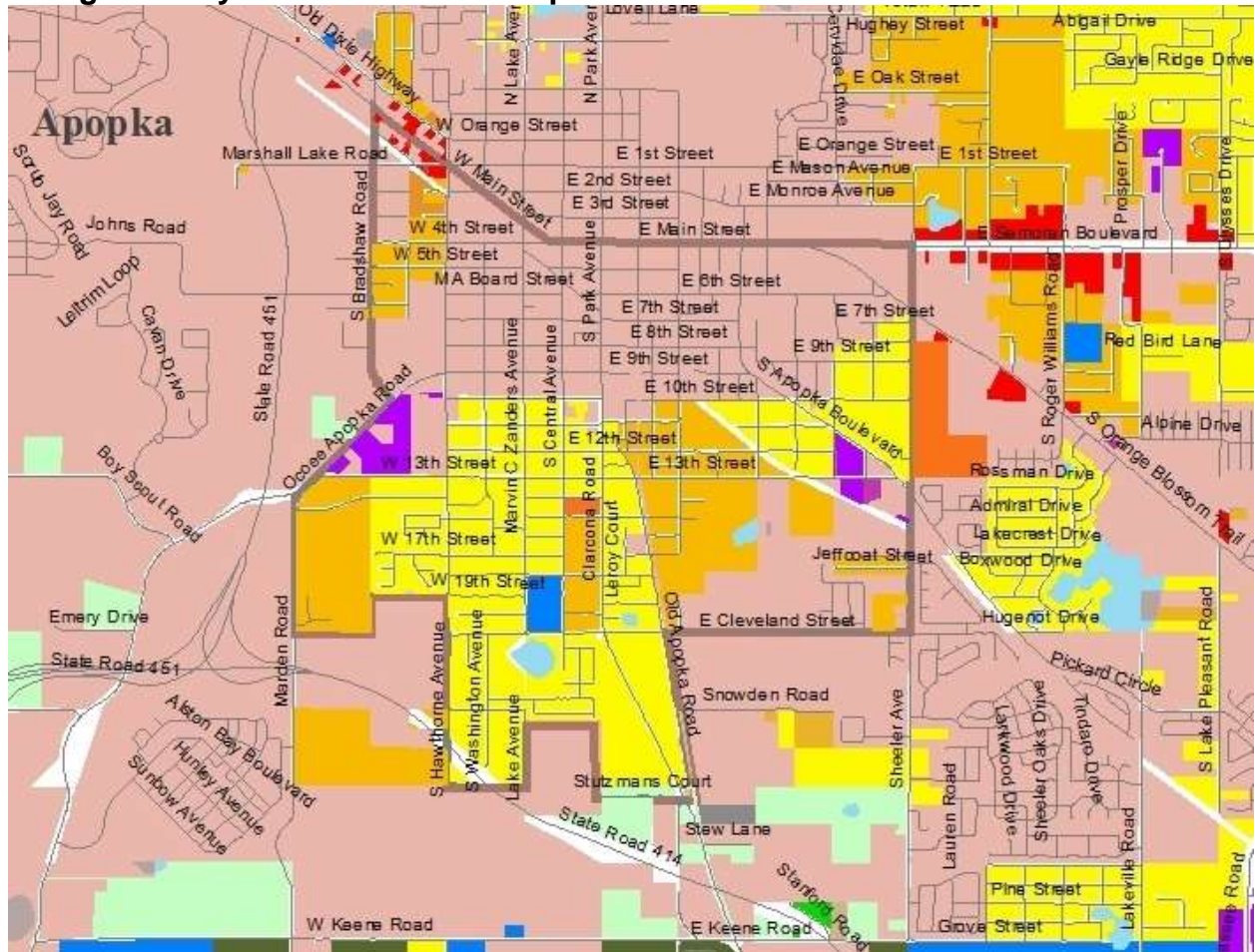
	South Apopka	Orange County
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10.2	5.2
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, no diploma	22.6	7.9
High School Graduate	40.9	27.2
Some college, no degree	12.5	19.7
Associates degree	6.5	10.0
Bachelor's degree	4.1	20.3
Graduate or professional degree	3.1	9.7

## LAND USE

In order to gain a better understanding of the South Apopka community, a brief description of the area's land use and zoning follows. Although portions of the area are within city boundaries, only the County's land use and zoning is reported.

**Future Land Use (FLU):** The future land use in South Apopka is primarily residential. Most of the existing residential development consists of Low-Density residential, or up to 4 dwelling units per acre. There is some Low-Medium Density (allows 10 dwelling units per acre) and Medium Density (allows 20 dwelling units per acre) within the South Apopka area. New Horizons (a 56 unit affordable housing project) had been slated for development in these at the former location of Hawthorne Village is now on hold indefinitely. Nonresidential uses include Institutional (which is Wheatley Elementary) and an Industrial area along Apopka Boulevard. The area between 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocoee Apopka Road also has an Industrial FLU.

## Orange County Future Land Use Map

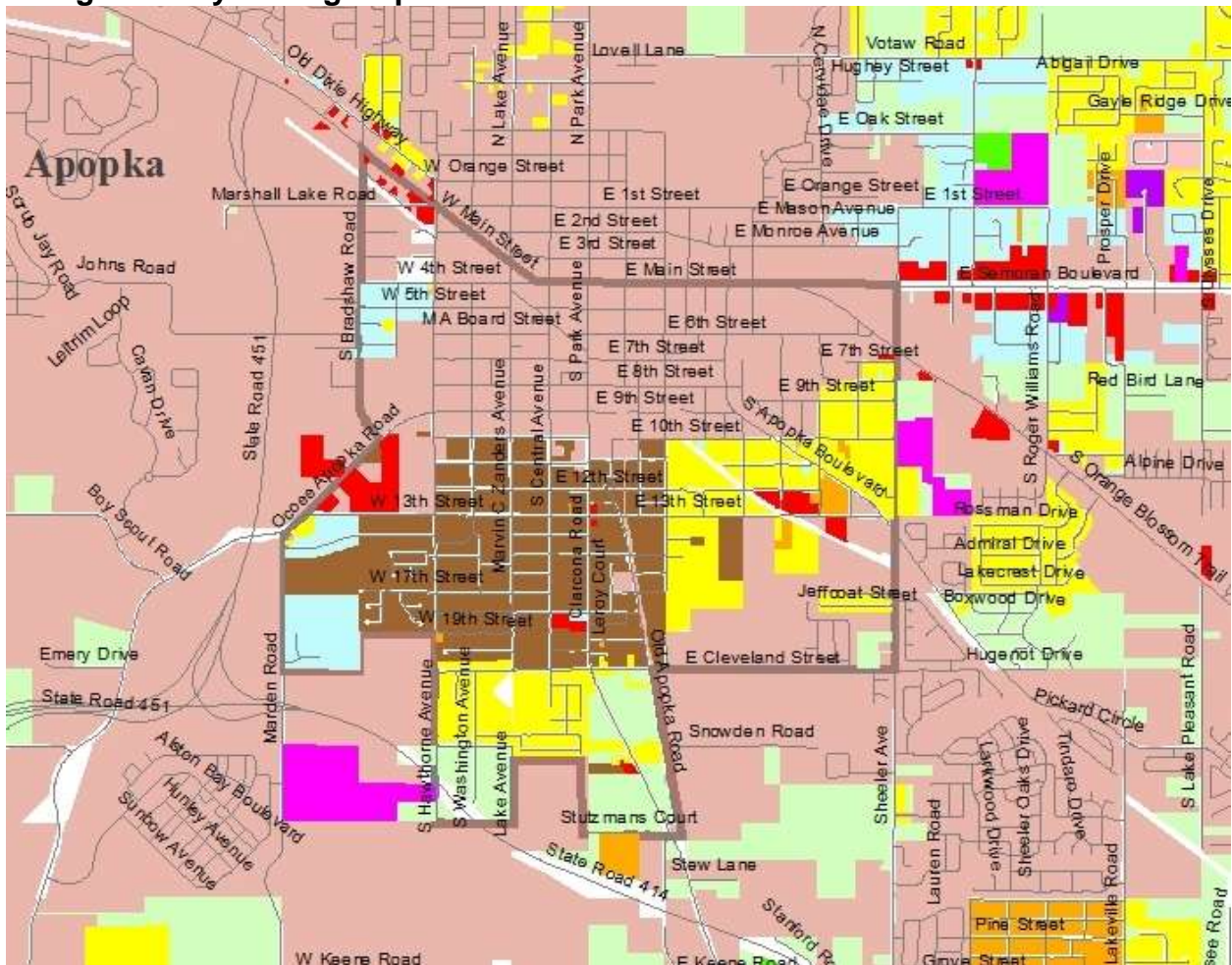


## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

There are a large number of vacant parcels in South Apopka unincorporated Orange County (tract 176) and the City of Apopka. Many of these parcels or enclaves have been included within the Orange County neighborhood revitalization plan as well as the Brownfield redevelopment plan. Census data show South Apopka's growth to be much slower than the rest of the County. An analysis of historical growth trends may reveal the need to consider alternative strategies for available land, such as those used in aging urban centers which have lost population over the past 30 years.

**Zoning:** For the most part, the zoning in South Apopka is more intense than the future land use, but existing development patterns are consistent with the Future Land Use. The zoning designation for the residential areas is primarily R-3. This means that future development should maintain the single family character of the area, with higher-intensity residential development focused in areas with the appropriate FLU. About three commercially zoned properties are located in residential future land use areas. It is important to note that commercial properties are located along Central Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Street within the City of Apopka. Many of these structures are vacant and/or dilapidated. The unincorporated area between 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocoee Apopka Road is currently zoned C-3 and R-3, but has an Industrial FLU.

### Orange County Zoning Map



### TRANSPORTATION

**Roads:** Major roadways include, US Highway 441, Park Avenue/Clarcona Road (County Road 435), Ocoee-Apopka Road (County Road 437A), and Alabama Avenue/Apopka Boulevard (County Road 424). Additional road expansions include the 429 expansion to US HW 441 and SR 414 has been expanded to US HW 441.

**Bicycles and Pedestrians:** The South Apopka community does not have designated bicycle pathways, or lanes. Sidewalks are present in the area; however, most are on only one side of the street and there a significant number of gaps in the network. Narrow local roads without sidewalks place bicyclists and pedestrians directly in the flow of traffic. Most streets are technically low-speed and low traffic, and therefore appropriate for all modes. Yet the reality is that speeding is an issue, as well as a lack of education for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians about proper behavior. A strategy which includes engineering and education is highly recommended to address these issues.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

**Parks:** Wheatley Park is a six-acre park located at Wheatley Elementary School on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. It is a full service recreation facility that features and amphitheater and tot-lot. Other amenities include picnic pavilions, a boat ramp, fishing, and tennis courts. Wheatley Park serves as a sight for the Night Time Basketball League, held three times a week for three-month periods.

**Community Centers:** The John H. Bridges Center, located in the northwest section of South Apopka, is a major public asset that has produced positive change in the community. Administered by the Orange County Heath and Family Services Division, the Bridges Center facilitates numerous programs and activities, including educational classes. The center also is the host site for job fairs, small business seminars, a Head Start program, family development programs, parenting skills seminars, female enrichment and male mentor programs, computer lab training and youth/teen socials. In addition the Center for Drug Free Living hosts several programs at the Bridges Center. New Journeys is a free after-school program that provides homework help, crafts, and even field trips.

### PUBLIC SERVICES

**Police:** The Orange County Sheriff's Office will play an integral role in reshaping the image of the Pine Hills Community. The community falls within Zone 11.

**Fire:** The closest Orange County Fire Rescue Station is Station # 28, which is located a few miles south of the target area. However, service can also be received from Station #27 located to the northeast of the area.

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

**Libraries:** The North Orange Library located on SR436 is just east of the community, but requires that residents drive to the site. Some library services are available at the Bridges Center and through Wheatley Elementary. Bookmobiles sometimes serve the areas as well.

**Schools:** Wheatley Elementary School is located in the southwest area of South Apopka on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. The school is very unique to the area for a number of reasons. First, the school serves as the only educational facility in the community. The school's historical presence is of cultural importance to the community. Construction of a new school in the existing location is scheduled to begin in November 2013. In addition to providing services to grades PK-5, the school offers tutoring and computer literacy training. Current enrollment is below capacity, at 322. The new school can be a source of community pride that encourages additional involvement.

**Churches:** The South Apopka community boasts of a diverse array of churches of all sizes and faiths. A search of property appraiser records for parcels with the religious use code yielded 47 results in the Safe Neighborhood boundary. The table on this and the following page lists these properties.

**Table G: South Apopka Churches**

THE SHABACH CHURCH	1403 S HIGHLAND AVE
ST PAUL A M E CHURCH & SFR	1012 S PARK AVE
LIGHTHOUSE OF DELIVERANCE CHURCH	743 S CENTRAL AVE
1 <sup>ST</sup> BORN CHURCH O'T LIVING GOD	116 CHISHOLM ST
SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	538 E 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST
OVER COMIN HOLINESS CHURCH	302 E 7 <sup>TH</sup> ST
HOLYGHOST HEADQUARTERS OF JESUS	250 W 12 <sup>TH</sup> ST
MACEDONIA FREE METHODIST CHURCH	1465 S CENTRAL AVE
APOPKA HAITIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	804 E CLEVELAND ST
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	601 S HIGHLAND AVE
TENTH STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST	157 W 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST
HOLY COMMUNITY TEMPLE	237 W 13 <sup>TH</sup> ST
LIGHTHOUSE TABERNACLE OF PRAYER	1151 S CENTRAL AVE
FREEWILL HOLINESS CHURCH OF GOD	40 E 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF APOPKA	914 S PARK AVE
COMMUNITY HOLY TEMPLE	1200 S CENTRAL AVE
TEMPLE OF FAITH	1028 MARVIN C ZANDERS AVE
TEMPLE OF FAITH	102 W G H WASHINGTON ST
NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST	927 S CENTRAL AVE
FRESH ANOINTING DELIVERANCE CENTER	232 W 8 <sup>TH</sup> ST
VICTORY CHURCH	509 S PARK AVE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF APOPKA	441 S HIGHLAND AVE
ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH	261 S MCGEE AVE



**Table G: South Apopka Churches (cont'd)**

ANOINTED WORD FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER	305 S HIGHLAND AVE
FOREST AVE BAPTIST CHURCH	200 E 6 <sup>TH</sup> ST
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF APOPKA	500 S HIGHLAND AVE
CROSSING OF THE JORDAN CHURCH	32 W 4 <sup>TH</sup> ST
HARVEST TIME TABERNACLE	227 S HAWTHORNE AVE
APOPKA CHURCH OF CHRIST	650 ALABAMA AVE
GRACE GOSPEL CHURCH	423 E 6 <sup>TH</sup> ST
CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY	380 E 7TH ST
MOUNT MORIAH CHRISTIAN CHURCH	125 W CLEVELAND ST
FOUNTAIN OF LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH OF APOPKA	38 W 15TH ST
FIRST HAITIAN CHURCH (NAZARENE)	1428 MARVIN C ZANDERS AVE
UNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST	205 W 19TH ST
HOUSE OF GOD	1261 S CENTRAL AVE
SPRING HILL CHURCH O'T NAZARENE	1218 CLARCONA RD
PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH	1202 S CENTRAL AVE
CHURCH OF GOD TEMPLO VICTORIA	1550 SHEELER AVE
FREEDOM MINISTRIES CHURCH	1348 OLD APOPKA RD
ST. ELIZABETH HOLINESS CHURCH	1218 OLD APOPKA RD
APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS	606 E 13TH ST
NEW COVENANT PERFECT'G MINISTRY	1190 APOPKA BLVD
TRUE TEMPLE CHURCH	1201 TILDEN AVE
SAINT MATTHEWS	2012 CLARCONA RD
PRESENT TRUTH SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH	1822 SHEELER AVE

**Social Programs:** There are a number of organizations which offer services to the citizens of South Apopka Safe Neighborhood. The Action Plan update process revealed that many residents in South Apopka feel that there is a lack of services available. Many people who serve the community believe that the problem is a lack of effective communication regarding the services available. As a result, creating a complete list of resources for area residents is one of the Safe Neighborhoods primary goals. The list below shows just a few well-established groups which are registered with the FL Department of State.

**Office for Farm workers** serves Hispanic, Haitian and black farm workers by providing assistance in legal matters.

**The Apopka Community Health Center** serves as the primary health care center in the community. The clinic is a non-profit organization that offers routine health services on a sliding fee schedule.

## **South Apopka Safe Neighborhood**

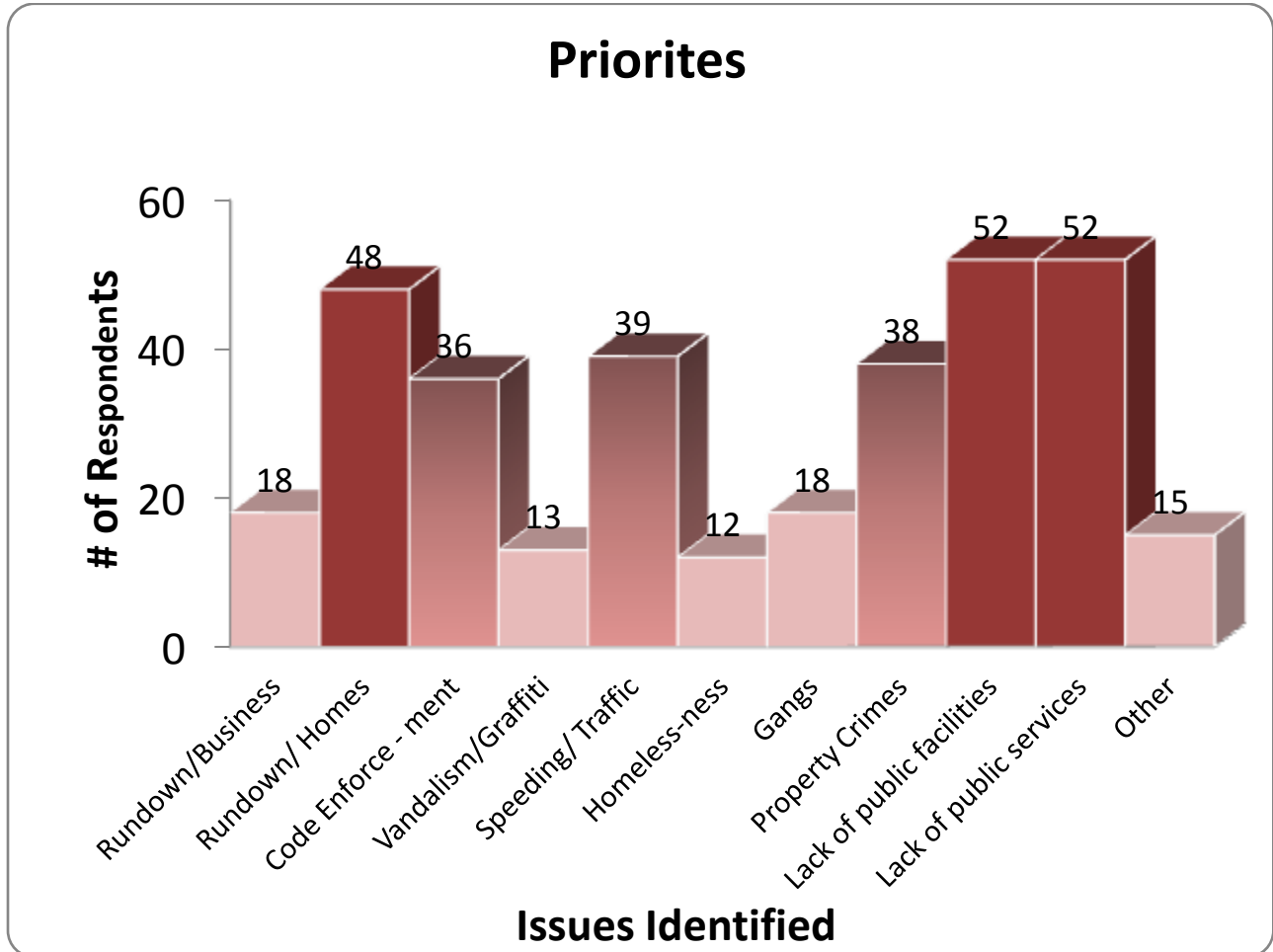
**Homes In Partnership (HIP)** provides quality built, affordable, single family housing to low income families.

**Community Trust Federal Credit Union** provides residents with a place to bank, obtain loans, establish credit and develop good savings habits.

**Greater Reading Or Writing Skills (GROWS Literacy Council, Inc.)** is the only literacy effort focused on farmworkers and other low-income men and women.

## COMMUNITY ISSUES

Through surveys and meetings, residents of South Apopka were able to provide input regarding issues in the area. The categories were prioritized as follows:



The survey results shown above indicate that the top identified categories relate to a lack of public facilities/services, issues with property maintenance, speeding and property crimes. About 85 percent of respondents stated that they did not belong to a South Apopka organization, and only 56 percent stated they had heard of South Apopka Safe Neighborhoods. These results suggest an issue not directly identified by citizens – lack of organized community involvement. The Safe Neighborhood program cannot directly provide infrastructure and services (except for traffic calming and street lighting); however, the program offers an opportunity to create a unified voice for the community, and connect citizens to available resources and information.

# South Apopka Safe Neighborhood Action Plan 2013 – 2016

## ACTION PLAN

Through appropriate communication, crime prevention and beautification projects, the Safe Neighborhood program can help South Apopka residents come together to tackle these issues as a community. The Action Plan lays out Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Action Steps to achieve outcomes which reflect identified priorities in the context of the background information provided in this document, and requirements of the Safe Neighborhood program. In their Neighborhood Planning Workbook (Citizens Planning Institute, 2011) the City of Philadelphia states that Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Timed (SMART) Action Steps strengthen the policy document and the likelihood that success will be achieved. This concept drives the South Apopka Action Plan and is paraphrased here.

Action Steps must be:

**Specific:** The action step must be a discrete task assignable to a responsible person or organization.

- NO – Make South Apopka streets better for bikes and pedestrians
- YES – Survey sidewalks and note conditions on a neighborhood map

**Measurable:** Can we collect information about the success of the action step?

- NO – Increase communication with residents
- YES – Sign up at least 50 residents on an email distribution list

**Achievable:** Can we actually complete our action steps? Setting an unrealistic task may discourage participation; or, important achievements may be overlooked.

- NO – Rehabilitate or demolish all dilapidated structures in South Apopka.
- YES – Establish a relationship with agencies which help homeowners with needed repairs.

**Relevant:** Are the action steps appropriate to achieve the stated goal? Do they reflect the desires or conditions of the community?

**Timed:** Along with measures, timelines help create the motivation needed to meet a commitment by setting deadlines to begin and complete any project.

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

<b>Goal 1: Connect South Apopka residents with available and desired public services and infrastructure.</b>	
<b>Objective 1.1: Make citizens aware of available programs and services</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Improve communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify locations for reader board signs <b>by April 2014.</b></li> <li>2. Identify partners who will change messages <b>by July 2014.</b></li> <li>3. Install reader board signs <b>by April 2015.</b></li> <li>4. Develop a newsletter format and strategy <b>by April 2014. Implement immediately thereafter.</b></li> <li>5. Provide at least one article for Safe Neighborhood website per month <b>beginning January 2014.</b></li> </ol>
Make resource lists available	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify all local service providers and what services they provide <b>by July 2014</b></li> <li>2. Compile the list and make copies available at the community center, local gathering places, and online <b>by October 2014</b></li> <li>3. Inform people that resource list is available through all available venues on an <b>on-going basis</b></li> </ol>
Invite service providers to community meetings and gatherings to share information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invite housing and senior service providers to meetings and events on an <b>on-going basis.</b></li> <li>2. Invite identified service providers to meetings and events on an <b>on-going basis.</b></li> </ol>
Facilitate communication between service providers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invite service providers to Safe Neighborhood board meetings on an <b>on-going basis.</b></li> <li>2. Focus support to groups that work together for common goals.</li> </ol>

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

<b>Objective 1.2 Help citizens identify and request desired public infrastructure, including maintenance needs</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Educate citizens how to communicate with appropriate divisions and elected officials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invite 3-1-1 to meetings and community events on an <b>on-going basis</b>.</li> <li>2. Inform elected officials of Safe Neighborhood events on an <b>on-going basis</b>.</li> <li>3. Include elected official contact information in appropriate Safe Neighborhood communication efforts.</li> </ol>
Support neighborhood leaders and advocate for desired projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compile a list of the five year projects (including maintenance) for citizens to review <b>by April 2014</b>, and make available to public.</li> <li>2. Help neighborhood leaders build support for projects through Safe Neighborhood communication venues.</li> <li>3. Communicate support for projects to elected officials as projects arise.</li> </ol>
Strengthen community organizations and citizen involvement in South Apopka	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Help neighborhood leaders organize at least 2 social or community project events per year <b>beginning January 2014</b>.</li> <li>2. Execute signage and beautification projects (see Goal 2).</li> </ol>

<b>Goal 2: Beautify public and private property in South Apopka</b>	
<b>Objective 2.1: Significantly reduce the number of rundown properties</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Achieve a comprehensive understanding of issues related to rundown inhabited properties; and available solutions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct an analysis to include code enforcement; housing requests for the past 3 - 5 years; number of senior property owners and other relevant information <b>between April 2014 and October 2014</b>.</li> </ol>
Increase participation in available home repair programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify non-profit partners or volunteers for housing repair projects <b>by July 2014</b>.</li> <li>2. Complete housing repair through available resources for at least 50 properties identified in the study <b>between January 2015 and December 2016</b>.</li> </ol>
Find creative solutions to reduce the number of active code enforcement violations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with neighborhood leaders and local organizations or churches to develop at least one program that assists with yard and/or home maintenance <b>by January 2016</b>.</li> </ol>

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

Recognize efforts of citizens and neighborhoods to maintain property.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Institute Yard of the Month or Yard of the Quarter recognition <b>by January 2015</b>, including rewards for winners if possible.</li> </ol>
Achieve a comprehensive understanding of issues related to rundown vacant, abandoned and undeveloped properties; and available solutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct an analysis of vacant, abandoned, and undeveloped properties <b>between April 2014 and October 2014</b>. Provide results in a graphic manner. Include property history over the past 10 years.</li> <li>2. Update Action Plan with available solutions <b>by January 2015 and begin implementation as applicable</b>.</li> </ol>
Find creative solutions for vacant, abandoned and undeveloped properties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage relevant County divisions to develop potential new solutions between <b>October 2014 and March 2015</b>.</li> <li>2. Receive appropriate approvals by <b>January 2016</b>.</li> </ol>
<b>Objective 2.2: Beautify public, shared or open spaces</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Complete entranceway or community sign projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop community sign plan <b>by July 2014</b>.</li> <li>2. Install community signs <b>by July 2015</b>.</li> <li>3. Complete 4 entranceway projects by <b>December 2016</b>.</li> </ol>
Continue community clean-up events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete 1 small-scale and one large-scale community clean up event <b>by December 2016</b>.</li> </ol>

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

<b>Goal 3: Increase safety for South Apopka residents</b>	
<b>Objective 3.1: Increase safety for all users of South Apopka roads</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Ensure motorists obey posted speed limit and signs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist residents who report speeding on their street to get a study and traffic calming devices on an <b>on-going basis</b>.</li> <li>2. Perform a study of main neighborhood streets (Central, 13<sup>th</sup>, etc.) to assess conditions <b>by April 2014</b>.</li> <li>3. Install any subsequent <b>recommendations by January 2016</b>.</li> </ol>
Improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include ped/bike/transit conditions in study of main neighborhood streets and installation of improvements <b>by January 2016</b>.</li> <li>2. Support adoption of WalkSafe curriculum at Wheatley Elementary <b>when school re-opens</b>.</li> <li>3. Hold one bicycle rodeo with helmet giveaway <b>by December 2016</b> (perhaps in conjunction with school re-opening).</li> </ol>
<b>Objective 3.2: Help residents increase the safety of their homes</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Periodically inform residents of safety tips and OSCO contact information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include home safety information on every newsletter and on website.</li> <li>2. Have a crime prevention report at every community meeting.</li> </ol>
Facilitate installation of features that make homes more safe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide giveaways to Crime Prevention officer for those who have a home safety audit completed.</li> <li>2. Hold 3 neighborhood level safety meetings and giveaways <b>by December 2016</b>.</li> <li>3. Complete one addressing project per year between <b>beginning January 2014</b>.</li> </ol>
Improve relationships between neighbors and with OSCO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Help neighborhood leaders organize at least 2 social or community project events per year <b>beginning January 2014</b>.</li> <li>2. Provide contact information for OSCO on newsletters, online and on promotional material.</li> <li>3. Begin a "Know your Neighbor" campaign <b>by January 2016</b>.</li> </ol>



## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

Eliminate hiding spots and unsafe areas on vacant and abandoned properties.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact properties with reported issues for <b>immediate</b> enrollment in the trespass program.</li> <li>2. Use analysis of vacant/abandoned property to enroll people in the trespass program.</li> <li>3. Use analysis of vacant/abandoned property to identify ped/bike shortcuts. Implement measures that would improve safety.</li> </ol>
<b>Objective 3.3: Create a united voice against all crime</b>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
Encourage reporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include CRIMELINE information on distributed materials.</li> <li>2. Sponsor a RRR training <b>by January 2016</b>.</li> </ol>
Strengthen community wide citizen involvement in South Apopka	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold National Night Out or other community wide event each year <b>beginning January 2014</b>.</li> <li>2. Conduct a “If you see something, say something” promotion as a lead up to community wide event.</li> </ol>

## **South Apopka Safe Neighborhood Action Plan 2013 – 2016**

**Action Plan Implementation Guide:** Action Steps are listed below by the desired deadline in order to assist the Safe Neighborhood measure progress and identify project leaders.

### **On-going Tasks**

- Provide one article per month for Safe Neighborhood website.
- Invite 3-1-1 to meetings and community events.
- Invite housing and senior service providers to meetings and events.
- Invite identified service providers to board meetings, community meetings and events.
- Inform elected officials of Safe Neighborhood events.
- Include elected official contact information in appropriate Safe Neighborhood communication efforts.
- Help neighborhood leaders **build support for projects through Safe Neighborhood communication venues.**
- **Communicate support for projects to elected officials as projects arise.**
- **Inform people that resource list is available through all available venues.**
- Assist residents who **report speeding on their street to get a study and traffic calming devices.**
- Include home safety information on every newsletter and on website.
- Have a crime prevention report at every community meeting.
- Provide contact information for OSCO on newsletters, online and on promotional material.
- Provide giveaways to crime prevention officer for those who **have home safety audit completed.**
- Include CRIMELINE information on distributed materials.
- **Enroll properties in trespass program.**

### **Yearly Projects**

- Two **neighborhood social or community projects**
- Hold National Night Out or other community wide event each year
- **Complete one addressing project**

### **By April 2014**

- Develop newsletter format
- **Identify reader board sign locations**
- Compile list of area projects
- Study of main neighborhood streets

### **By July 2014**

- **Identify reader board responsibility**
- **Develop community sign plan**
- Identify area service providers
- Identify partners and **volunteers for housing repair projects**

## South Apopka Safe Neighborhood

### By October 2014

- Make project and resource lists available to public
- Study of housing issues

### By January 2015

- Update Action Plan with available housing actions

### By April 2015

- Install reader board signs
- Engage County for potential new housing issue solutions

### By July 2015

- Install community signs

### By January 2016

- Implement traffic study recommendations
- Begin a **“Know Your Neighbor” campaign**
- Sponsor **RRR training**
- **Institute recognition for upkeep of home yards (Yard of the Month/Quarter)**
- **Develop at least one program that assists with yard and/or home maintenance work**

### By January 2017

- **Complete one small-scale and one large scale community clean up**
- **Complete four entranceway or neighborhood beautification projects**
- **Hold three neighborhood level safety meetings**
- Hold one bicycle rodeo
- Complete housing repair projects using available solutions for at least 50 properties
- Obtain approval for any new housing solutions