Part of this survey is more for the commercial residents and the working people and not the retired (92 year old respondent) None

City manager needs to walk each street. See what this town really looks like! Very sad. Keep rec. center. Where is Pasco for penny spent?

Your redlight money maker and part fees are related to gross mismanagement of funds. In the boom you hired and spent in excess.

If aggressive steps are not taken to rid the city of gangs, our city is headed for disaster. I recommend asking churches to go into areas of the city that have crime problems and minister the gospel. A spiritual change will bring a change in the natural.

Drugs/crime has gotten bad in NPR. I don't even like letting my children go to parks, nor them and I drive our bikes around. Sad - it once was nice.

None

Code enforcement and the police department need to be able to enforce rules already on the book. NPR is turning into an undesirable place to be. (Attached letter - scan and place in reported in Appendix B - # 199.

None

I have lived in NPR for over 20 years. City's appearance in neighborhood have really hit an all time low. Houses look disgusting. Gangs in my areas are horrible. It just changed so much. Can't afford to sell my house. I want the old NPR back again - clean and we could walk again without a weapon.

None

Scan and place long letter in Appendix B - # 203

Scan and place long letter in Appendix B - # 204

None

None

Bring in the artists!!! And beautify, beautify, beautify and most importantly: bring in and support local owned, independent businesses not franchises or corporate!!!
210 None

211 Keep up the good work! Efforts should be made at middle/high schools to retain and engage students currently below standards.
212 None
213 None
214 None

   Entrance handicap on northside of Orange Lake on Circle Blvd. by Washington St. and Sims Monument - move trash cans from bench area - they smell while you sit. Police should patrol alleys especially at night. They're present in the street but not the alleys. Do not let anyone sell you on changing the Hacienda by taking one inch of our Simms Park, that would be so wrong. Many townspeople feel the same and we don't care what you would rebuild. According to laws passes many years past prohibiting this. This is scary. There is still talk about it. Would be a disgrace on many levels.

   Too many bad looking kids sitting around City Hall and steps of businesses and sitting on benches. I will not get out of my car to pay bills.
216 Got to be some dope traffic there.

   To many people (mostly kids/teenagers) Jaywalking across Madison Avenue. Teenagers will cross right in front of you for you to slam on brakes or hit them.

218 Tired of paying for things I never get. Taxes for sidewalks and street lights and everything in my neighborhood has not changed in ten years.
219 Schools should be a priority! Activities for children to keep them off drugs and out of trouble.
220 Scan and place long letter in Appendix B - # 220 - PERSON WANTS AN ANSWER FROM THE CITY, PERSONALLY

   Code Enforcement needs to be proactive - too many junked cars, boat in yards under tarps, turned so license plate cannot be seen. People are living in RVs set up in side and rear yards. Too many transient renters selling drugs.
222 More police on Bellview Avenue - neighbors use drugs and are loud til 10 PM plus.
223 None
224 None
225 None
226 None
227 None
Police need to be more proactive in dealing with drugs and gangs in city near adjoining area. Too much speeding. I also filled out paper of drug deals in my neighborhood and no one contacted me. I call back police line of drug deals in daylight. I am questioned to death about how do I know this ... I am feedup with the cadets answering dispatch line. Our neighborhood keeps an eye out for each other so we call and we are treated like we have the problem rather than the problem we report. We have been in NPR for 40 years and on Delaware Avenue 36 years. The last seven to nine years have been the worst with people asking for money while I am gardening or coming into my garage to borrow my loan tools. We have had $200 worth of items stolen from our yard, including a $100 tree out of the ground. Thank God we have an alarm system. We have been robbed four times in the past. Unfortunately, we can't sell our house during these times. My heart is not here in NPR anymore because it is a dumping ground of undesirable people.

Don't appreciate narrowing of Main Street in downtown. I wish Main Street Landing was bought by city for additional boatramp and park. Like and agree with John Schneiger's outlook on the city. We need new openminded commonsense people.

Sims Park needs massive maintenance and housekeeping. None

Starting to see more gangs. Someone broke into my shed. I lost $1600.

I have never used library. Events are important. Chasco is crucial. No brownfield. Rec. Center and parks are great.

This is not a good place to raise a family.

I love NPR!!

None

Something needs to be done about the unsupervised children in NPR. They are out late at night playing in other people's yards, streets etc. They are never ever supervised. They cause damage to other properties, especially vacant homes. They have no respect for other people's property.

Need bike trails/safe walking trails. Need to set and enforce rules to make bikes and motorized chairs more visible and safer. Require reflectors, lights at night, red flag on pole, so they can be seen by cars when crossing 19. Fine them if not equipped or crossing against the light. Metal/commercial structures (garages/carports like the one's on Kentucky and Grant and Ohio and Grand. They are eyesores and unsafe. Was there ever a permit pulled on 5647 Kentucky? It does not show up on the tax records. You have a beautiful river walk, so why do you let people put junk on their property? Start doing your job and help to make this a pretty city again.

Have only lived here a year and five years part-time in Port Richey.
245 Scan and place long letter in Appendix B - # 245

246 I miss the Suncoast Shopper. It helped me get acquainted with NPR and surrounding areas.

247 None

248 None

The crime is out of control. People loitering along Main Street is out of control. Littering, garbage and liquor bottles are all over the city.

249 The other day I smelled two kids smoking pot behind my house in the alley.

250 None

A survey asking your employer/bosses what if anything they want for their tax is an admirable start. Does the City Manager and Department Head know that the city taxes are 45 percent more than the non-city a block away, costing me thousands in reduce home value. Also Scan additional typewritten pages in Appendix B - #251

Area of concern where we live (Gulf and Grant) - there are trash trucks emptying dumpsters at 5 am Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are hundreds of ferrel cats roaming streets, pill mill weekly auto B & E, no reclaimed water, it would be nice to talk to Gas Company to get natural gas in these neighborhoods.

252 Would like to see more attention to the apts near Gulf Middle School. I have heard there are drug sales at that location

253 There are many homes that are boarded up. There is junk and trash in yards. The homes look condemned. I feel my neighborhood has gone down and am embarrassed to live here because of the condition of the neighborhood. Something should be done.

254 More police needed to combat drugs and gang violence. Beneficial activities for young people along with more parental involvement to greatly minimise their chances of being lured into these illegal activities.

255 Appears to be a drug problem in my area - dealing on the streets - my mailbox repeatedly destroyed until I was forced to get a P.O. Box.

256 None

The City appears to lack direction. It could be a real jewel. Instead it is a dud. Unfreindly toward business growth. Projects City takes on (i.e., church land purchase, hotel purchase, Brownsfield declaration) are poorly thoughout and ill-advised.

258 None

259 None

260 None

261 Sidewalks should be installed on Rowan Rd. north of Massachusetts Ave.

We have no children but we are big outdoor people. Would love to have more trails and nicer parks inside city. JB Starkely is great but not great trails. Better parking for downtown events would be nice.

262 There has never been police patrol in my neighborhood. I mean never.

263 Packs of homeless and teens that hang around Main Street - Library and Park needs to change -- image is terrible - also pretty scary!

264 Should let residences of NPR use rec and aquatic center for free or lower the fee.

265
Enforce no wake law on river. The condition of Gulf Blvd. and other city streets is a disgrace. Ticket all speeders. Potholes are a disaster!

Rec Center and Hacienda is a waste of money. Unload them and put more into police services.

Cats should be licensed like dogs. Need to catch improper/shady construction

Love, love, love the rec. center

The city is in terrible financial shape based on terrible choices: the rec. center, buying First Baptist, the condos on Main. Besides that how about a little code enforcement - the city is looking tacky!

The city is going to have to stop spending money I can't make. We need to stop or cut back on nonessentials - recreation and parks are nice, but I have not had a raise in four years. I am losing more money this year. The city must cut back the same as taxpayers who pay bills.

Loose dogs present a problem when I walk my dog. Homeowners let their pets outside without fencing or supervision.

Issues: 1) Crime 2) Run down neighborhoods 3) Would like to see the city help with caring people who try to help stray animals. NPR Police use to help, no longer do.

Paving projects need to be inspected better. Final grade is higher than original design, and asphalt is covering curb limiting the conveyance of stormwater (Tangerine Dr.)

Follow through on code violations - junk cars and boats and household appliances and furniture is an eyesore.

The City is fine but it would be beneficial to have no increase in taxes.

Libraries are very important! NPR is a good place to live. Hacienda and Main Street Landing need improvement. Thank you for asking.
Looks like the city is spending too much money buying poverty they do not need.

There needs to be a stop to duplexes and triplexes. Get very strict on rental properties and hold the owner responsible for their tenants.

The city needs to focus on the neighborhoods!!

The city should allow homeowners to make small home improvements without such big ordeals. It seems like some important meetings should be rescheduled when weather is bad. Foreclosed homes are not taken care of at all. Taxes are ridiculous and the city is falling apart.

Please check areas for unpermitted yards and refuse let on front lawns.

Cats are everywhere! If gangs are in NPR we know the crackshop across from the library is most likely where they will go. Why doesn't the city care?

Will never build a house in city limits, due to permit department.

NPR is a very boring city. I have to drive all the way to Tampa and Clearwater in order for me and my family to enjoy our weekends. There is nothing for kids to do. Absolutely boring!!!

We have a flooding problem in our street. The business at the end of the street has a lot of garbage and there is a problem with drainage.

We have mosquitos because of sitting water.

This city is not nice to live in anymore. Cost of living too high, no jobs, no help for small business, traffic is terrible, nowhere to walk, no sidewalks anywhere.

Water meters every two months, billing every two months - might save a little money.

English is the Primary language, not a secondary language (Q19B). What reclaimed water (Q61)

A phone caller under BALEF Code solicit money for fire department employees. Is this allowed by the Fire Dept?
Some of the questions refer to nonresidents. As a snowbird, I am a part time resident and full time taxpayer.

We are not much involved in community service, but crime should be stopped in NPR and Pasco County.

Good job, thank you for your service.

- Increase police presence in NPR. I suggest putting police on bicycles. It would save money on insurance, gas, auto maintenance, etc. And the police officers would get much needed exercise! The city I lived in previously had police on bikes, and it was awesome to see them riding throughout the community.

- None

A great deal of money is spent putting in sidewalks. Too many people do not use them. They walk in the road, two and three abreast. I would get a ticket for driving on the sidewalk. They should get one for walking in the street!

- None

- I feel that the crime rate in our city is too high. The police need to focus on the "gangs" to help residents feel safe.

- None

- Due to loss of economic growth I feel it is hard bring business growth into the city, and that many areas are being left vacant. I also feel that drugs have taken over many of the areas in the city, and without code enforcement and police the city has taken a turn for the worse.

- Cat control. Have trash collectors start after 6 am.

- I feel that instead of speculating in real estate and building swimming pools, we need to be investing in our infrastructure water lines, street/alleys, drainage, tree trimming.

- None

- None

- None

- None

- None

- None

- This city needs a lot of work with the crime rate, drugs, and abandoned homes. The parks need to have a little more watch due to the older children doing drugs and crimes around younger children.

- Panhandling is a big problem. Police services are terrible, city workers seem to do nothing but ride around. The parks are full of unsupervised youths and gangs.

- Please do something about the cats, they are all over and use my yard for their privy. The neighbor feeds all the strays and that house on Marine Pky please get rid of it, it's an eyesore.
When my house was burglarized, it took city police 45 minutes to respond. I have supplied a complete and detailed list of stolen items and do not feel the police are comparing it to pawn logs. Speeding on my street is consistent. We do not receive info on crime activity, Need to improve city's image and landscaping to attract more professionals and businesses - also active arts league. Removal of junk in yards. Thank you and good luck!

Here's hoping jobs open up more within this city in 2012.

None

Please keep tree scraps from private property.

(Personal characteristics of the respondent - not recorded here.)

I feel the city made a major mistake when they purchased the Hacienda and the church. Nothing is being done about the half built mess on Main Street. Code enforcement never does anything about the dilapidated filthy houses and yards.

Immigrants entering this country should be required to speak fluent English in order to enter this country period.

I feel development officials should consult and sit in on meetings with successfully developed small cities like Dunedin and Safety Harbor.

None

Upkeep of sidewalks in the neighborhood. The sidewalks have become uneven and cracked on Conniewood Square - dangerous.

None

None

None

Scan and place long letter in Appendix B - # 358

Library - if one person in a household does not return material back to the library and get a fine other members in the household should not be penalized.

More teen programs/opportunities and more library funding! Less harassment for teens and more arrest for prostitution. Street lights and sidewalks must be addressed!

None

None

None

None

I'd like to see the building on Main St. completed - they are a real eyesore.

If you need to get revenue, take it from the insurance companies. State Farm has had a 143 % increase over the past two years. In these trying times tax them for each client that lives here.

Enforcement of speed limits on city street should be totally enforced, especially Nebraska Avenue. Trees need to be trimmed to see posted speed limit signs, Nebraska Avenue street name signs need to be updated.
Don't like the cameras on US 19 at all. Don't trust them. I will not use US 19 at all. Yellow light is not for caution anymore. What the h--- is this town doing? Are you nuts?

The city purchased many properties at high price and they completely took down the Baptist Church to leave a vacant lot. How will the citizen recover that hug financial loss? What will happen with the Hacienda (?) building.

None

Please us Penny for Pasco money on a paved trail on the east side of Congress St. between Pine Hill and Ridge Road - this in combination with intersection improvements at Congress.

Code enforcement needs to apply violations equally to all residents. I also think we should take another look at the rundown neighborhoods.

The availability of narcotics and pain meds are out of control and making this city as trashy as the unemployed individuals making residence.

I haven't lived here long, so my opinions are not very reliable.

I love my city of NPR. I may not be happy with some, but I know our city will work hard to improve and grow. I would love to see less drug activity.

None

Member of the redevelopment advisory board for past 12 years with little results to show. Poor city management of major redevelopment projects!

None

Widen Main St. (Demo old hotel) build another boat ramp. Demo the church, pave for new parking lot on the lake.

I would like to have more events all year. I like Chasco, bikefest, nights in the tropics, seafood feast in NPR.

None

Library services great. I visit every week and appreciate the evening hours and wonderful stuff.

None

I would like to see something done with the Hacienda soon, before it winds up crumbling to the ground. Try fund raising for the project and local contractors. Needs streetlights - too dark at night.

The City of NPR needs to be more small business friendly. Many small businesses have moved out or gone out of business due to lack of support and restrictions.

None

None

Main Street Landing needs completion. Hacienda needs to be remodeled.

None
New Port Richey is now called "New Port Roxy." I am ashamed to live here with all the drugs and crime.

Not enough jobs, too many bars, too many stray cats.
The dispatcher of NPR police need to lose their sour attitude.

My street sign is misspelled. Amhurst Ct. should be Amherst Ct.

One of the biggest problems teens that hangout downtown. Every time we walk down there we are harassed by them. I wish the police would run them off.

Need to clean up graffiti. Pave Gulf Drive. Fix my street where your water leak tore up my driveway.

Very poor street lighting in some residential areas, especially Elm St., no lighting at all. (Last sentence - can't read)

Redeveloping the entire city is needed. Beautifying is not as important as repairing and maintaining. Fiscal restraints, unemployment, crime, almost a ghost town. Why don't we have our sanitation department? (See additional scanned comments in the Appendix B, # 405).

Main Street Landing needs to be completed. It is an eyesore right now and a waste of resources.

Parents need the power back to parent, teachers need their power back to teach, and police need their power back to control instead of standing there saying "our hands are tied." Gov needs to back off feeding off the workers.

Taxes in NPR for homeowners are substantially higher than surrounding areas, even gulf front. Either lower or include service everyone uses. Pay as you use instead of subsidizing unused services. Call to get feral cats removed - city did nothing. Get rid of rundown buildings.

Exhorbitant taxes paid - city should provide water, sewer and garbage (collection) in taxes already paid.

Consolidate services by utilizing the county resources. Encourage redevelopment of US 19. Encourage family-friendly businesses downtown (no bars) (like Dunedin)
I have had the privilege of traveling our state. I have been in many small cities and towns like NPR, and they are thriving. What are we doing wrong? Look around.

None
None
None

I really appreciate the city picking up leaves, etc. from the yard and not having to place it in plastic bags.

None
None

The city needs to work harder and faster to demolish or rehab sinkhole, abandoned, or burnt out houses. We have had a burned house on our street now, empty.

Come see Jasmine Bayou - you own it - please maintain it. Picture and additional letter attached to survey - Placed in Appendix B - #427

See attached comments in Appendix B - #428

The Hacienda is our crowned jewel that should be lucrative for this city. It is devastating to know that the city can enforce residents owners to keep up their properties, but the city cannot upkeep and develop their own-Hacienda Sims Park.

See attached - Flouridation of water - Appendix B, #430

City is looking very rundown. Police spend time writing tickets - not keeping us safe. Code enforcement is non-existent.

I think we can do better! I would like to see redevelopment be green - sustainable and an attractive model for other FL cities. We could utilize solar and alternative tech. Please.

Close the rec center. Remove Code Enforcement Officer Nichols. Lower property millage rate.

See attached two letter from responant in Appendix B - #434.
Attachment:

In the city of NPR, a lot of the residential buildings are in poor exterior condition. This makes the city appear rundown and almost “slum” in some areas. Down the street from me there is a house 5128 Lillilea Ln that the front porch roof has fallen into the yard and the fence is also fallen to the ground, window boarded up. I contacted the owner listed on the prop. App. website and they say they don’t own it. (so who does?) No one will fix it and this is an abandoned house for years. To me this kind of repeated residential offense is committed time and time again. If there is an abandoned house and owned by a bank either take it away from bank and fix it or make the bank fix it. In general there are too many houses in need of exterior repair in city limits of NPR.

Rental houses need to be kept up to par as well and the owners need to be aware if their tenants are keeping the exterior in clean condition or are they putting their trash all over and keeping 3 or more cars in their grass/lawn. The landlords need to be held accountable for their tenants. Offenses such as these help keep the cost of our value in our homes DOWN. This is bad for NPR residents. I would move out of NPR if I only could afford to sell my house, but I can’t. One of my neighbors repeatedly parks a trailer of trash in a driveway of another neighbor who lives out of state most of the time...this is NPR. HELP! Too many people are putting things in their front yard for public view that needs to be kept in a garage or storage unit/shed. There is no pride in the way we upkeep the residential neighborhoods. I don’t care if we re-landscape Main St., I care if my non-deed restricted neighborhood is kept in good repair. There had been funding available in the past for residential fix-ups (partial reimbursement) what happened to that program? The economy or poor management?

Cecelia St. between Madison and Baille Dr. is very dangerous with speeding vehicles. My dog and a motorcyclist was killed this past year due to excessive vehicle speed. Speed bumps need to be installed like they have on Grand Blvd by the water. I am afraid to allow my child to play in front of our house because of this problem and I was denied a permit to put up a 4’ green vinyl fence (very unobtrusive visually) in the years 2004/2005. My neighbors who have side yards along this same street have been allowed to put up fences to protect their children and property but not me...this is discrimination. (We were forced to fence in a part of our front yard by our front door, this looks stupid) I believe anyone who has a yard along this patch of road needs and deserves a protective fence and should be given the permit for safety concerns. A 3’ fence will do nothing for you for safety. These persons should not have to spend over $300 to ask permission for a fence, they should be given this permit for free because this is a dangerous street. Also if a neighbor has the right to do something in their yard such as put up a fence then the other neighbors should be granted the same right automatically. How can you allow one person to do something and not another?

In my opinion the city needs to clean up residential areas and help keep our children safe.

Thank you 841-4818
I retired to New Port Richey after living in Atlanta for several years. I did a lot of research before I made the decision to move here.

I now regret making this choice. I have NEVER lived in an area where drugs were sold across the street from my home, or where police officers were called for repeated domestic disturbances down the street, even though I lived in two cities with some of the highest crime rates in the country: Miami and Atlanta. I also have never lived in an area where people seem to be content to throw anything they no longer value in their front yards, and leave it there for what seems to be forever, and store their actual garbage in trash cans in their front yards. I have to commend the NPR Police Department and Code Enforcement for their quick responses to any problems that I have reported. The are prompt, courteous, and effective, as is the Fire Dept.

Six out of the nine properties on my street are rentals, occupied by tenants who appear to have no concern for how they live. The houses are owned by people who seem to care even less than the tenants about what happens to the properties, which are poorly maintained, with trash in the front yard or against the side of the building; unkempt yards, and mildewed paint. One of the homes has a live-in RV in the front yard.

The neighborhood has a colony of homeless living a stone's throw away. They dump debris in the canal that runs next to our homes. They also use this canal and the 3 ponds/lakes it connects to as toilets. In addition to this irritant, I have recently noticed groups of young people loitering downtown, on street corners, and draping themselves over bus benches, discouraging many of us from going there - are these gangs?

Our Code Enforcement Officer is wonderful and promptly responds to any issues or requests. But one person in not enough to do that job city-wide. I think improvements needed in Code Enforcement and Public Safety can be achieved by adding personnel. Drugs; rundown properties and filthy trailer parks; bums and the homeless wandering the streets; lazy, careless, renters and landlords- all of this affects the quality of life in NPR. These are some of the issues that prompted my negative answers on the survey.

I am very satisfied with the Police and Fire Departments, Code Enforcement's one officer, and the services provided by Public Works Dept.

Overall, I am satisfied with conditions in NPR, but only because I know it could be worse, not because it is acceptable. I would never encourage anyone to move here. If possible, I would sell my home, even at the tremendous loss I've already incurred, and move to where I am not confronted with the type of people New Port Richey seems to be attracting these days.

I am embarrassed and saddened by the condition of my neighborhood and the surrounding areas. None of us should feel this way about our homes or our town. Just before I retired and moved away from Atlanta, I would tell people I was moving to "paradise". No more.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. I can only hope it makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Amy Fitzgerald
2012 City of New Port Richey Citizen Survey

Public Safety

Crime and drugs are a major issue in our city. It is likely that the cause of most crimes are drug related. My home and car have been broken into several times this year alone and I fear that it will happen again. The prescription drug epidemic needs to be controlled or we will lose what is left of the good qualities of our city. Stray animals and homelessness seem to result from poverty and the recession, however, information on homeless outreach and animal rescue programs should be provided by the city.

Maintenance and Code Compliance

Some areas of the city are maintained well but there are many areas that are neglected. Many residential and commercial buildings within New Port Richey are deteriorating and codes are not being enforced. It would be nice to see the City sponsor an initiative to motivate residents and businesses to clean up their properties.

Economic Development

It is important for officials to consider rebranding New Port Richey and creating a positive and modern image for the City. We would greatly benefit from new and interesting businesses. This could be achieved by exploring new marketing ideas to entice business owners to move to the area and by developing more community programs and activities to attract involved residents. I would also like to see the City take a greater interest in environmental matters and move toward a more sustainable path. We already have a solid foundation to become a "greener" city however there needs to be more public involvement and a bigger political will. Environmentalism encourages residents to conserve, protect, and care for their city. I have lived in New Port Richey almost my entire life and I would love to see it turn into something really wonderful. I appreciate the new direction in which the City is going, and I would like to see it continue to evolve. I'm afraid if these issues are not addressed, the citizens who care might be inclined to leave.
City of New Port Richey,

We have been here for 12 years without satisfaction to our complaint.

Is there anything that can be done about the noise at Heather Hill Nursing Home? The garbage barrels with 6 hard wheels are rolled all the way down their driveway at all hours of the day and night, sometimes as many as 4 at a time sounding like a jet or train coming at us. Many times I thought we were having an awful Thunder storm.

We sleep in the front of the house although the Master bedroom is in the back, but even then we are awakened at least 3 times during the night. At 5AM (about) the garbage truck empties the dumpster. During the day they roll them down at least 5 times.

Our back yard borders their driveway. We've complained to them several times.

The code enforcement, Liz Nichols, said, "That
is not acceptable,” when she heard the noise, Nothing was done. We’ve tried to contact The Mayor. He never calls back.

We are not asking for anything to be done about the noise from all their delivery trucks, ambulance, Fire Trucks, Lawn Mower Trucks, Change of shifts, Shredder Trucks, generators air conditioners and garbage trucks emptying The dumpsters at 5 Am. every day. Nothing can be done about that.

These garbage cans can be taken out the back door which is near the dumpster or at least put rubber wheels on them to quiet them some. When they return from the dumpster they are much louder as they are empty.

Anything that can be done will be appreciated greatly as we like living here otherwise.

   Sincerely,
   June 9; Donald Scheible
   6818 Hills Dr.
Afford to turn on fee for reclaimed water. The house already is piped for reclaimed water, but was told it would be “$150 or more.” I do not remember the exact amount, just to have someone come out & tie into the system. I do not understand if the home is already piped, why is the cost so high for what seems to be a simple, fast task. For this one reason, due to I am disabled & my one enjoyment is gardening, I wish not to renew my lease and move further north where most homes have brass instead of sand spouts.

In my opinion if the city really wish to help families beautify their homes, it should offer this service at a more reasonable cost.

Also, there is an empty lot accross the street from where I live & everyone who walks their dogs treat the area as a doggie potty spot. When the wind blows, All we smell is dog feces, not to mention the feces kills any grass it remains on when not picked up. If there were strict fines and enforcement and more education for all the ignorant people whom feel this is OK behavior is OK, it would make the people who care a whole lot happier. People can be retrained with education. I moved here from the North Dale area in Tampa and was so impressed when I noticed every single person walking their dogs carried bags to pick up any messes made.

If someone has time, could they please respond to this letter on if there are any current regulations on this matter. If so, what can I do to help? Am I allowed to put a post/notice in my yard offering free doggie poo bags and a garbage can to help educate/give the hint to offenders. Thank-you in advance for your time & attention.

Teresa A. Jones
6851 Hills Dr.
New Port Richey, Fl. 34653
(727) 848-0767
To Whom It May Concern,

I have lived in New Port Richey for about 4 years now. In that time, I have seen many things happening here that are disappointing.

I have attended (1) city event in my four years here. The event was a car show where there were a couple of stages set up with music and the turnout was good for the most part. While watching one of the bands play, there were several people in attendance who were obviously under the influence of some kind of drug (by their actions I would have to guess they were under the influence of crack or meth). There were families in attendance, and people who just wanted to listen to some music and enjoy the evening. The police in attendance ignored this group of people as they were harassing event goers nearby. Please get these drug addicts off of our downtown streets and remove them from city events downtown. I will not likely go to another city event because of this. I know the police can't be everywhere at once, but there is no reason for them to ignore an obvious problem.

Although I have not been to Simm's park, my close friend took her 5 year old son there to enjoy the play area and to have fun with the other children. One child there was stung by wasps/bees while playing on the playground. Upon inspection, there are several crevasses that were infested with wasps/bees. In addition, teenagers running around at the park were knocking smaller kids over, and again, my friend was harassed by some lady who was obviously under the influence of some kind of drug. Please have the police check in on the park more often to chat with the people using it and to keep out those that would disturb children who just want to play, and get maintenance out there with some spray foam to cut down on the bees/wasps nests. Although my friend's son loves that park, she is hesitant to bring him back down there because of these issues.

The downtown area offers very little for teenagers to do, but there are always teenagers hanging out. The city should help businesses that teens can go to establish store fronts downtown. Businesses like coffee houses, arcades, and teen friendly clubs would hopefully decrease the number of teens hanging out on the street and at the park and give them something to do downtown. This is not to say that there is any real issue with teens hanging out downtown, there should just be more things for them to do. Downtown should be a cool and fun place to go for everyone, where people feel safe and can have a good time.

I live off or Rowan Road between Massachusetts and Ridge Road. There is no sidewalk there and the road is very curvy. There are always people riding bikes, sometimes at night, who are on the road with vehicles. Drivers have to be extremely vigilant driving in this area. This is an obvious danger and it is only a matter of time until someone gets hurt or run over. Sidewalks on this stretch of Rowan Road are a necessity.

In general, the city looks, in most part, like a depressed area. This does nothing to invite families and others to buy homes here. There are nice areas, but they are almost always surrounded by run down and abandoned ones. The draw to purchase in New Port Richey in our case was lower home prices and lower taxes compared to Pinellas. However, the lower housing costs do not make up for seeing prostitutes and people begging for money. Drug addicts and beggars are not the kind of people that
help the city's image. I don't know what exactly can be done about these types of issues, but New Port Richey is notoriously a joke to most people who simply drive down Main Street. I have several friends outside of Pasco county who see the drug, prostitution, and begging problems here as an indication of how all of the people of this city are. It is sad and at times embarrassing, to be quite frank, that I live in a city that is notorious for having these kinds of problems.

I have completed the survey and made these comments because I want New Port Richey to be a nicer place for those who live here and to those who visit. There is no reason that things cannot be improved here, and I hope my comments have highlighted some of the major issues the city has. I would like to be proud to say that I live in New Port Richey one day, and I hope that day will come.
A survey asking your Employer/Bosses, what, if anything, they want for their taxes is an admirable start.

The question the City Manager and each Department Head should ask is why anyone should feel that living in the City of New Port Richey be worth 45% more in taxes than houses outside the City Limit! That Right, how many knew, our taxes are 45% more in the City; matching line item mil rate and correcting for slight service differences.

Not a single person I talked to feels the noticeable sidewalks and lights are worth this tax burden. The high tax makes City houses worth thousands less. Note: My homes selling price would have be less to compete, since the buyer’s amount for housing (Principal, Interest and Taxes) would purchase more house outside the City.

The 45% additional City tax burden does not place thousands in benefit to my property. You need to show that the actual property owners are physically receiving something for their taxes. This would include that the crime rate: robberies, break-in, theft, drugs, shoplifting, fights, loitering, etc. is less half of what it is outside the City. The fire Department has to have the same Data. Fewer fires in the city due to walk-in inspections, demolishing derelict buildings, less percentage damage to city homes, etc.

This means spending that goes directly to each landowner. Most cities I have lived in have free city garbage collection with lesser taxes. I expect this to be a contracted out.

The City is all about water and it appears you control it tightly. I expect the first item of business a city should take is care of its lands, waters & tidal ponds, the river, the swamps and culverts. The City should be paying to fixing up all erosion and disrepair concerning city-taxed property. This is your tax base and this is YOUR assets. If the owner does not care or have the money to fix the land, it not smart to let your asset/tax base disappear. This is your responsibility and is truly an investment in developing the city.

Now where do we get the money? The taxpayers would like to see a breakdown of exactly where each dollar of tax money goes or is committed. That is the following: 1) Pay roll of administration, 2) Pay roll of staff, police, fire 3) Pay roll of all other full and part time employee working for city, plus all contract employee, 5) Brake down of vacation time for each and sick time, 6) Medical insurance costs, 7) Business Travel cost, food & room cost, 8) Pension and medical insurance costs (fully funded or pay as you go?) 10) Yearly cost of all city buildings, equipment and vehicles (debt service, depreciation, upkeep/maintenance, utilities, etc). This is most of your fix costs. Is it too high?

What is left can fix your PRESENT assets noted above. You City taxes appear to be ~75% higher than taxes in Dade City. You drastically need cost cutting

With the city in the shape, it is in, building bigger and building more is a mistake. Take the great Post Office Road Project, Aquatic Center or Grand Blvd project, are they nice, yes. These are roads traveled by City and NON-CITY personnel. This is not a reason to live in New Port Richey and pay these huge taxes. Your traffic cam gives almost all of the revenue to the operators. Vendor contracts need stipulation clauses that cost the vendors dearly if they fail their self-serving predictions.

Are you just trying now to address the Revenue lost of the hospital? I applaud you for, it is time you readdress the city residence needs.

Fix the existing deterioration before contemplating anything new!
Your residents of city meetings and/or town hall meetings — we need more middle to lower income residents that are working to come to these meetings — these are the people we need input from.

You need to consider getting your local schools and their students involved in your surveys — truth — a visitor thinks downtown New Port Richey is nice/okay and maybe draw the middle aged residents and older residents think it's okay or even nice — but ask a high schooler about downtown — ask a high schooler about Sims Park — here's what they'll say — oh it's horrible — full of drugs — the kids and homeless live under the bridge at Main Street — it's dangerous — no one good goes there...

Don't just put makeup on the city and its side streets — make up eventually washes off and you are again left with the true flaws of New Port Richey — clean New Port Richey up — get and go deep into the streets of New Port Richey — the people who voted us most playful city obviously don't live here — we should be voted most dirtiest, drug infested, crime rife, city because that's what we've turned to.

NPR — clean up your act and make your residents proud to live here again
NPR — keep the residents safe so they venture out more — become a part of the community
NPR — employees, officials who care about New Port Richey and our future whether than their company’s business and its future
NPR — be a part of the solution — not the problem

As a resident of New Port Richey, but a woman who grew up in Pinellas County — I can honestly say we've gotten as lonely as South Side St. Petersburg — but not as big — don't know where that is or anything about it — do your research. You'll see.
The national debt and fiscal crises across the country is a definite challenge. As to our city, I see crime, homelessness, panhandlers, school age children all over during school hours. Unemployment is high. Businesses, even professional ones, are either moving or closing down. Citizens do not care what is planted along the roads. Citizens want good roads, good lighting, sidewalks, and maintained lots, buildings, parks, etc.

There are many stray and feral animals. People jaywalk on U.S. 19 all the time. Speed limits are rarely followed. Many areas are overgrown or have lushed trees that block street views in traffic. See more Sheriff Dept and Part Richey P.D. around New Part Richey./\n
Need to communicate with citizens. Website is terrible. Need to ask for and seek out businesses that will be needed and enjoyed and stay, increasing employment. Also need places, other than school activities, the Rec, and the library, for children and teens to meet and enjoy varied activities. The Rec is too costly altogether and not large enough. The library is wonderful but needs expansion. Suggested suggest vegetarian/vegan lotteries, legel poke, pizzeria, bakery, deli, movie theatre, sports equipment store, Chinese, Japanese restaurants, so many other things.
I need your help for Farmers Canal.
For years we've asked you to clean it, so we can see the water. You completely ignore us.

Jan. 29, 2012

To the people: I pay my taxes to keep the city going. Police, firemen to keep the citizens safe so they can keep sending their taxes.
As you must know by my address I live by a canal.
It is a complete sty. The water is so stagnant, it looks like old geese. It is also overgrown with weeds.
Then I bought my place 30 yrs. ago we had ducks, ducks & fish that you could actually see. There was nowhere to be found. They've taken off for fear of their lives.
please get rid of
this terrible mess.
we also see cocks-
we have children and
pets here, and I'm 90
years old and can't
run as fast as a gator.

This was once a sight
to behold no more.
The canal is a disaster
and getting worse
every year, overgrown
and filthy. Please come
and take a look. It's
unbelievable. Bring
back that little bit
of heaven.

Thank you.

Mary De Simone

PS. I don't want this
letter in the waste basket
without thought.
Dear Mr. Daly,

I am honored to be one of the few residents asked to complete the 2012 City of New Port Richey Citizen Survey. As a 15 year resident I have seen a lot of ups and downs, coming and goings, revelations and desperations take place in this city. It is so wonderful that our current leaders have taken the initiative to interact with residents via a survey such as this one. Therefore, I find it equally as important to do my part by taking my time to explain why I can not answer satisfied to some of the questions. I have indicated “SA” (see attached) next to such questions. My hope is that you take my explanations into consideration as you compile the report and not just count it as a negative response.

Sincerely,
A long term resident holding out hope 😊
1B-Code Enforcement services:

Personal contact and use, such as permit issues, have gone very well for me. Timely attention on notification of approval or disapproval. "Satisfied"

I see a lot of consistently unkempt properties around town. Enforcement of owners to tidy-up and maintain unkempt properties. "Dissatisfied"

1G-City Parks

I can only comment on Orange Lake, Sims Park and Cotee River park. I have seen them horribly unkempt with weeds growing in the cracks and mold growing on the sidewalks, decorative bricks missing, overgrown grass and flowerbeds. Then other times they are pristine and freshened-up. Consistent maintenance would be nice. The Main Street entrance to downtown is always so up kept and beautiful, why can't our parks have the same attention?

1J-City Communication with the public

Since signing up with Nixel a few months ago, I am very satisfied with communication. Prior to that, not so satisfied. Not all residents know about or have the ability to receive updates from Nixel. I think the city should take more advantage of free publications like The Suncoast News to communicate with the public. Maybe just a simple one page calendar of events mailed to residents quarterly. It's frustrating to find out about something, such as, neighborhood pride clean-up day only after it's over.

1L-Overall appearance of the City

Awful, "Dissatisfied"! If new and successful businesses are expected to move in and bring revenue to our City, it needs to be ready for the reception. Main Street Landings is something that everyone likes to pick on because it is the biggest eyesore Downtown. How about all the city property? Let's at least paint the benches along Main Street, the bridge and the little building by the Cotee River that welcomes everyone to town. And let's do it in a pleasing cohesive palette. Let's landscape the Hacienda along Bank Street. Let's fine the people that own the old Spoonbill's building until they clean it up and replace the broken windows. Let's tell Vincenzo's to finish the paint job they started years ago. Let's have the music store do something about his sign!
Just a few simple and inexpensive fixes could dramatically improve the City’s appearance. Remember first impressions are lasting impressions.

3-Public Safety
3A-D,F-J

I live very near the police station, as a result, I believe my neighborhood is immune to most of the items listed.

3E, however, takes me right back to the previous paragraph and the segment on code enforcement, not effective enough. I know the high rental rate in our City gets most of the blame for shoddy looking properties. So let’s raise the rental permit fees to a significant amount that will be less attractive to slumlords that just buy properties with no intention of fixing them up or maintaining them. Let’s fine the population of snowbirds that let their places go un-maintained all summer. Let’s limit the amount of recreational vehicles allowed on one property. And the one main thing, “Let’s enforce it”!

4- A,C,D & #5

Again, I live near the police station, so I see them all the time in my neighborhood. I don’t think that my answer would offer a fair perspective for the whole city. It would be “Satisfied”.

6C-Maintenance of signals/street signs

Signals OK, street signs, not so good. I’ve noticed a lot of the street signs that are attached to stop signs are crooked or bent. Maybe the stop sign can not support the weight? Some attention is definitely needed in this area, they just look sloppy. “Dissatisfied”

6D-Landscaping of medians/public areas along major streets

Have you driven on 19? Would it be possible to get the criminals that are sentenced to community service out there for some cheap labor? Forget landscaping for now, just some weeding and picking up litter would approve their appearance. “Dissatisfied”
6E-Maintenance of medians/public areas in your neighborhood.

See 1G
( the parks are the public areas in my neighborhood.)

6I- Availability of reclaimed water in your neighborhood.

I was promised, by council members, that reclaimed water would be available on my street in the late 90’s when they were running it to the construction site of the new police station. I’m still don’t have it ☹ “Dissatisfied”

7. I chose C and D because there should be little cost for improvement and instant gratification! Letter (I), reclaimed water, would be awesome but quite costly right now for the budget.

8D-Bulk trash pick-up
If this includes “neighborhood pride clean-up days” please refer to 1J. Otherwise, “Don’t Know”

10-Communication

10A,B&H
See 1J

10C
This survey is a great idea!

10D
Getting better ☺

10F
I miss getting the newsletter in the mail ☹

12-Code Compliance

12-A&B
See 1B, 1L and 3E
13C-The City is a good place to start a business

Happily, I’ve seen many businesses open Downtown. Sadly, to see them close soon afterwards. I truly believe that the city needs to invest in an experienced, professional business development person. Greater NPR Main Street has been spinning it’s wheels long enough, we are no better off now than we were 15 years ago. If the right person is hired and the position is monitored with monthly reports on progress and activity, I think it would be money well spent.

It’s always the old adage “the chicken or the egg”........“with foot traffic businesses will come, with businesses foot traffic will come”

We need someone to **SELL** New Port Richey’s potential!

14-Economic Development

14B,C&D
I don’t believe that it would be of any benefit currently for the city to become larger. Annexation is always an enticing option to collect more tax dollars, but bigger is not necessarily better. Over the years we’ve annexed ourselves into more work, more worries and more areas that require more spending on things like maintenance and public safety.

Making the most of what we have now is important. I think the overlay district should be revisited. Maybe lighten-up a little on the stringent permitting issues that have plagued it in the past. If it’s more tax dollars that we’re after let’s take advantage of what’s right with the city and concentrate on recycling, repurposing and reusing the areas that we already have, a lot of tax dollars could be collected from all the empty store fronts downtown.
15.
This is a tough one, I think 1-6 will go hand in hand. If we beef-up (1) code enforcement (4) the neighborhoods (6) will improve in appearance (5) and that will improve the image of the whole community.
So that’s my choice for #1 start with code enforcement.
#2 would be beautifying 19
#3 would be beautifying the city entrances

In closing, I would like to thank the City Officials for caring enough to ask for public opinion I am happy to have taken part in your survey.

In a nut shell, I say:
“Clean it, paint it, weed it and sell it!”
Survey Response
City of New Port Richey - City Hall
5909 Main Street
New Port Richey, FL 34652

Dear Survey Response,

In addition to some of the comments made on our survey to you, there is a matter of great importance which, in my opinion, deserves an immediate response. For the past several years we have received reports about the quality of our drinking water and when it comes to the court for biological material, the city's water tested above acceptable limits. This continues to be unacceptable and yet we do not hear or read about any plans the City has to improve the quality of our drinking water. Other counties, such as Pinellas, add fluoride to the drinking water, has the City of New Port Richey taken action on this matter and has a plan for fluoridization been discussed and a timetable set?
To Whom It May Concern

This survey really is meaningless. I hope tax dollars weren't spent on this.
These things below are what is important to me.

1) A police force that can spot and come up with a plan to actually prevent crime. I was broken into once - a criminal slashed my window screen - but nothing was taken. I was fortunate. I think that there are skinhead gangs - wearing black that curse the "N" word that roam our streets. It's very open - and scary.

2) I think the library is the best thing our city has - period. Should have more funds.

3) Why the city allowed licenses to all these "pill mills" is crazy and incompetent. When Pam Bondi announced a crack down - suddenly pill mills popped up all over the city. The handwriting was on the wall so to speak.

4) Yard debris program is also one of our best things. Don't do away with it - modify it if you have to.

5) I don't like stray cats - too many. Should be treated same as dogs.
b) I think Van Buren St should be turned into a pedestrian friendly one way - like Franklin St in Tampa.

Overall the problems we have here are the same all cities go through. We need strong leadership and out of the box thinking by our civic leaders to make things better. And the Chasco Parade is so over the top it's become too large and offers me nothing.

Thank you for your time.