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## **Apopka Receives \$750,000 Federal Grant to Build New Community Center**

**APOPKA, Fla.** – The City of Apopka will build a large new community center at Alonzo Williams Park – a project that began planning nearly two years ago – with a newly awarded \$750,000 federal grant presented through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

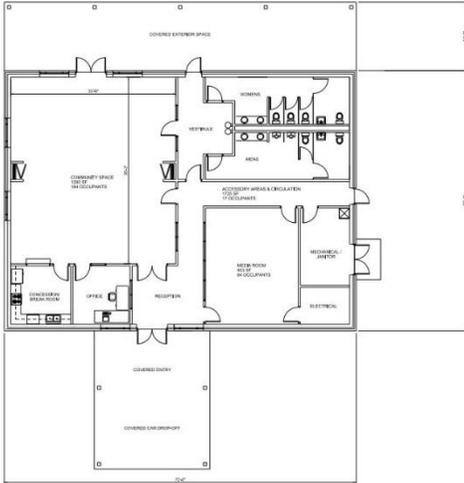
The long-awaited project will demolish the existing structure at Alonzo Williams Park, 515 South Hawthorne Ave. In its place, a new community center – double the size of the existing facility with more than 5,500 square feet – will be constructed. The new center will feature a large meeting area, offices, activity rooms and a covered entry with vehicle driveway. Another much-needed improvement will be paved parking along M.A. Board St. and future parking adjacent to the facility.



The state officially notified Apopka about the \$750,000 grant award late Thursday. The federal grant is administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, which provides between \$18 and \$26 million in federal funds each year to benefit local governments. Apopka’s grant application was submitted with assistance from contractor Fred Fox Enterprises.

The city will provide \$50,000 in matching funds, representing a significant savings to city tax-payers to build a beautiful new community center on the south side of Apopka. Construction of the new facility could begin next year.

“Thank you Team Apopka! More than a dozen dedicated staff members who work for the City of Apopka collaborated to pursue this grant opportunity, and I am grateful for their hard work,” Mayor Joe Kilsheimer said. “Alonzo Williams Park has the potential to serve many purposes for Apopka residents, from organized after-school programs to pick-up games of soccer and basketball. The new community center will enrich everyone’s experience and serve its surrounding neighborhoods for many years to come.”



Alonzo Williams is a three-acre facility with a multi-purpose fields, outdoor basketball courts, softball field and a playground. Earlier this year, Apopka received a separate, \$50,000 grant through the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program to improve the recreation areas at Alonzo Williams.

For the FRDAP grant – awarded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Apopka vied against more than 130 other applicants from around the state. Alonzo Williams Park ranked 26<sup>th</sup>. A separate, \$50,000 grant awarded to Apopka’s Kit Land Nelson Park ranked 57th.

The City of Apopka diligently seeks state and federal grants to provide important community improvements while reducing the cost burden on city tax-payers. Apopka recently received a \$625,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to hire additional police officers.

Apopka was among 184 law enforcement agencies across the country and only 12 in Florida to receive part of \$119 million through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program. The funding is aimed at creating or protecting more than 900 law enforcement positions nationally.

That three-year, \$625,000 grant will allow the Apopka Police Department to fund five additional police positions. The much-needed assistance will help the city to ease heavy demands on the police department in keeping up with a growing community of more than 46,000 residents and businesses spread across 33 square miles of northwest Orange County. The grant requires a match from Apopka for \$339,800.

***The City of Apopka is a growing area ideally located 13 miles northwest of Orlando with major roadway access to many parts of Central Florida. The hometown community has more than 45,000 residents across 33 square miles and includes a diverse mix of business development.***

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