TRINITY LANE – AN APPEAL TO HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



Our community's environmental concerns are focused on the Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling industry and one C&D recycling company's improper land use leading to the destruction of an ecologically valuable green field. Above photo (Google Earth, 2013) is representative of the green field as of July 4th, 2015. Below photo (Cackling, 2015) is the current state of the green field from industrial activity performed by Pro Way Construction Company from July 8 - Sep 25, 2015.



The community of Trinity Lane is requesting that the Hillsborough County Planning Commission **REJECT** the private **application for Land Use Variance** for the 5.27 +/- acres of **Folio #50345.0000** in the Florida Garden Lands of Gibsonton. This land is a vital natural watershed area. The improper industrial land use of Construction and Demolition materials recycling of concrete and asphalt by Pro Way Construction Company that began on or around July 8, 2015, on the green field located at the south end of 7001 Gibsonton Drive has already had a devastatingly negative impact on this natural wetland area including the obstruction of the natural watershed from Trinity Lane and nearby properties and destruction of the natural habitat that serves wildlife and migratory birds. This green field area encompasses a natural pond that is recognized and identified by the Florida Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (Wetlands Mapper, 2015). The residents of Trinity Lane have conducted a Sustainability Assessment of Pro Way Construction and its owner, Robert Vollmer.

Contrary to the Hillsborough County: CPA 15-09, Future Land Use Map Amendment Summary Information sheet that was mailed to all the Stakeholders of the requested land use variation, the green field area of this five acres is zoned agricultural rural (AR) as evidenced by the following excerpt from the property record card for Folio #50345.0000 (hcpafl, 2015). The application for variance incorrectly lists the "Existing Land Use" as Mixed. However, Mixed Use applies to the office, shop, and parking area at the north end of the property at 7001 Gibsonton Drive. The environmentally sensitive green field for which the variance application is requested is located at the south end of the property and has a different zoning class.

LN	<u>Use</u> <u>Code</u>	Description	<u>Zone</u>	Front	Depth	Unit Type	Total Land Units	Land Value
1	993A	Acreage Class 3	AR	0	0	AC ACREAGE	5.27	\$158,100.00
LN	Legal Description							
1	FLORIDA GARDEN LANDS REVISED MAP OF N 3/5 OF E 1/2 OF LOT K AND N 3/5 OF W 1/2 OF							
	LOT L LESS TRACT BEG AT NE COR OF LOT L RUN W 150 FT AND S 32 FT FOR POB RUN S 100 FT							
	W 62.5 FT N 100 FT AND E 62.5 TO POB AND LESS W 15 FT OF N 3/5 OF E 1/2 OF LOT K AND							
	LESS N 40 FT FOR RD							



Stakeholders

The following residents have provided data and input for this project:

Mary Cackling

Owner, 7018 Nundy Ave (borders green field and 7016 Nundy Ave which borders Trinity Lane)

Lessee, 7016 Nundy Ave (borders Trinity Lane and green field)

President, Gardenland Mission Inc., Community Cat Rescue and Sanctuary

Authorized Community Cat Volunteer, Humane Society Tampa Bay

Led the Sustainability Assessment and Recommendations

Hillsborough County, Florida

Owner, Folio # 050341-0100

Freshwater Emergent Wetland in Florida Garden Lands

Sarah Moody

Owner, 10407 Trinity Lane (faces and borders green field)

Member, Gardenland Mission Inc. Board of Directors

Provided research retrieved from Hillsborough County Public Records searches

Loi Yates

Owner, 10409 Trinity Lane (faces green field)

Provided input regarding human health issues associated with the new industrial activity

Debra Tate

Occupant, 10403 Trinity Lane (faces and borders green field)

Member, Gardenland Mission Inc. Board of Directors

Provided input regarding human health issues associated with the new industrial activity

Richard Cackling

Owner, 7018 Nundy Ave (borders green field and 7016 Nundy Ave which borders Trinity Lane)

Administrator, Gardenland Mission Inc., Community Cat Rescue and Sanctuary

Provided research on the history of the Florida Garden Lands and mapped the recognized

Wetlands associated with the address of 7001 Gibsonton Drive, Gibsonton, Florida.

Provided insight into the disruption of normalcy at the cat sanctuary as a result of the offending industrial activity.

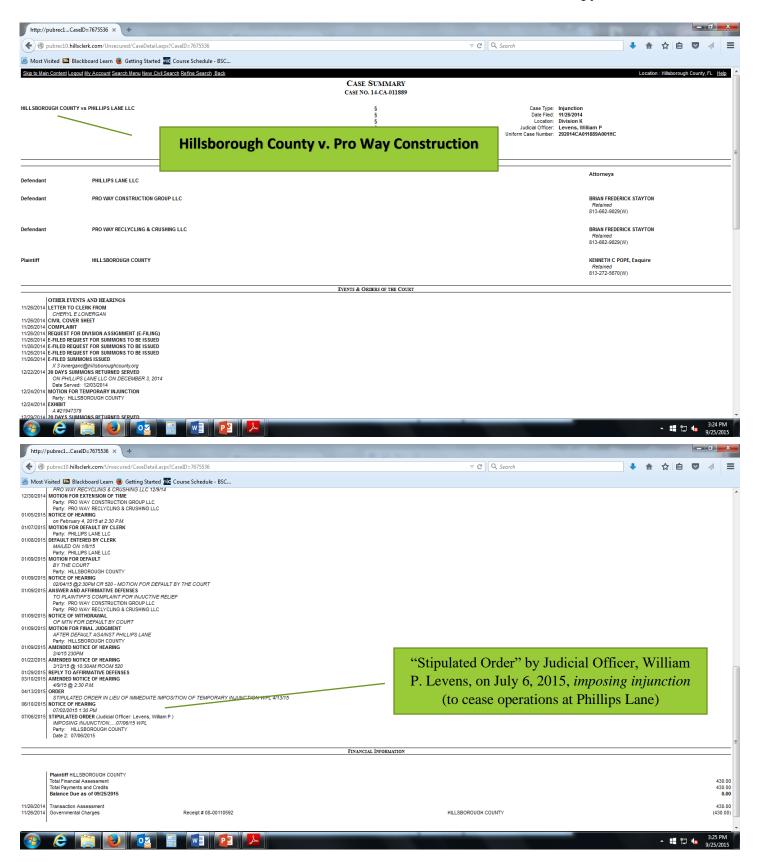
Community Sustainability Assessment applied by the community of Trinity Lane to assess the environmental business practices of Pro Way Construction owned by Mr. Rob Vollmer.

Developed by the Global Ecovillage Network, the CSA is two parts of the subjective survey intended to assess a community based on ecological and social aspects. This mini-assessment will encompass a condensed set of questions intended to evaluate the current practices of the Construction and Demolition materials (concrete and asphalt) recycling company, Pro Way Construction. The questions address two areas – Best Social Practices and Best Ecological Practices (Community Sustainability Assessment, 2015). For this assessment we have implemented a modified scoring system of **Good – Neutral – Poor**.

Best Social Practices of Pro Way Construction and its owner, Rob Vollmer

- Sense of community and mutual support of Pro Way Construction
 - Poor Although Mr. Vollmer personally spoke with most of the Trinity Lane residents prior to beginning his C&D recycling operations, he was not forthcoming about his intentions to destroy the green field that borders Trinity Lane.
- Conflict facilitation and peace-building skills of Pro Way Construction
 - Poor Once Mr. Vollmer began his C&D materials recycling operations on the green field, the Trinity Lane residents each complained to him personally about the misuse and alterations to the green field. Mr. Vollmer continued operations without regard to community complaints. Trinity Lane residents began complaining to agencies including EPC, Zoning Code Enforcement, and Army Corp of Engineers who all expressed concerns about the legitimacy of the C&D materials recycling. Mr. Vollmer responded by making complaints to Code Enforcement about minor infractions against the neighbors who dared to complain about his C&D recycling operation. Mr. Vollmer also made complaints to Hillsborough County Pet Resources Dept. against Mary Cackling and Gardenland Mission Inc. After making a "surprise inspection" at the cat sanctuary, Field Supervisor Loretta Magee determined that Mr. Vollmer's complaints were unfounded and that Gardenland Mission was in compliance with animal ordinances.
- Alliances within wider society and networks
- Poor Although Pro Way Construction is an avid supporter of breast cancer research,
 the company suffers from poor relationships with the neighbors in the communities
 where Pro Way Construction's additional sites are located. Mr. Vollmer has a history of
 starting C&D materials recycling in economically depressed neighborhoods and
 continuing those operations without proper certifications and permits until Hillsborough
 County cites them for noncompliance.

 as evidenced by the following Case Summary found on Hillsborough County Clerk of Court Records Search Case No. 14-CA-011889 (copy below).



An interesting item to notice is the "Stipulated Order" by Judicial Officer, William P. Levens, on July 6, 2015, imposing injunction, with the Plaintiff being Hillsborough County (originally filed Nov. 26, 2014.) This injunction required Pro Way Construction to cease operations at their Phillips Lane location. Just a few days later, they moved their C&D materials recycling operation on the green field at the south end of the 7001 Gibsonton Drive location.

In an online search of Hillsborough County Public Records Book #21990, Page #852 is a record of Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate's Case No. CE14012239, Order Imposing Fine against Pro Way Construction for failure to complete the "Site Development Review Process as Required by the Hillsborough County Land Development Code and Obtain an Approved Site Development Plan" regarding a variance for the Phillips Lane site that had been approved by the County, but Pro Way Construction failed to complete the improvements as required by the County. The following are excerpts from that document:



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Political subdivision of the State of Florida
Petitioner,
VS.
PHILLIPS LANE LLC
PRO WAY CONSTRUCTION GROUP LLC
Respondent(s)

CASE #: CE14012239

ORDER IMPOSING FINE

THIS CASE came to be heard by the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate ("CESM") on 09/15/2014. Pursuant to Chapter 162, Florida Statutes and Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, Chapter 14, Article II, Section 14, and after hearing sworn testimony, reviewing the evidence, hearing arguments and being otherwise fully informed, it is ORDERED as follows:

- a. ITEM PM12.3A: NUISANCE CONDITIONS Hillsborough County Property Maintenance Code: Section: 12.3 Action Required: Remove DESCRIPTION: Not meeting the conditions on the variance has impacted the neighbors with dust. Noise has been a concern but the readings were conducted during hours full operation was not in.
- b. ITEM Z501: SITE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW\PLAN REQUIRED
 Hillsborough County Land Development Code: Sections: 1.03.02.B.1 \ 5.02.02.A \ 5.02.02.B
 Action Required: Complete the Site Development Review Process as Required by the Hillsborough County Land Development Code and Obtain an Approved Site Development Plan. All development shall be in compliance with the approved site plan. DESCRIPTION: The variance was approved based on 8/1/2014 deadline to have improvements completed.

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CE14012239

Best Ecological Practices at Pro Way Construction's 7001 Gibsonton Drive site

- Sustainable water management
 - o **Poor** When Trinity Lane neighbors questioned Mr. Vollmer about concrete and asphalt dust that was being released into the air, the solution he expressed that addresses that problem is to spray water on the piles of recycled product. This solution would entail a gross waste of possibly potable water. (See "Nuisance Conditions" excerpt of Case # CE14012239 above.)

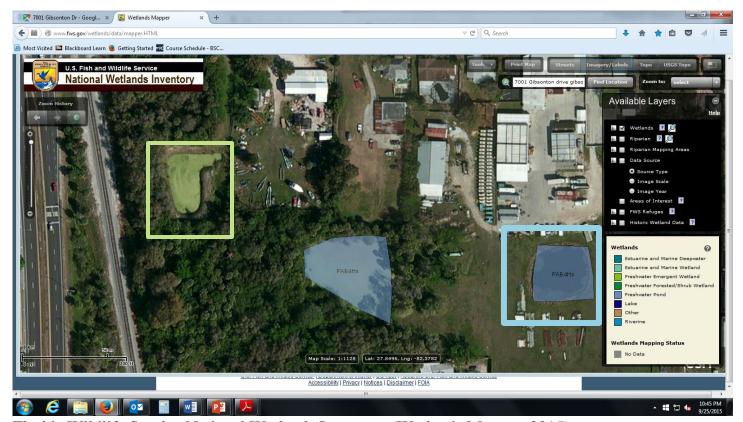
Ecological sanitation

- Poor Since there appears to be no collection and reuse of grey water at this location, this solution would carry contaminants from the recycled products down the natural watershed to the wetland area on site.
- Natural and traditional healing methods used to support the health of humans and animals living near project?
 - Poor Some of the neighbors do have health and breathing issues. The members
 of the Trinity Lane community, like those at the Phillips Lane site, are suffering
 from air and noise pollution due to the close proximity of the C&D materials
 recycling operation.
- Ecosystems and biodiversity to what extent are ecosystems conserved and restored and is biodiversity increased due to this project?
 - Poor Trinity Lane is home to a community cat sanctuary, as well as species of migratory birds and butterflies, and many small mammals. Destruction of the green field and constant noise from the C&D recycling operation has already displaced the community cats and local wildlife alike.

Pro Way Construction scored "**Poor**" in every category of both "Best Social Practices" and "Best Ecological Practices." The owner, Rob Vollmer, shows blatant disregard for the community of Trinity Lane and the ecological disaster he has created at 7001 Gibsonton Drive.



The Florida Garden Lands plat, located in the Gibsonton area of southwestern Hillsborough County was originally mapped out in 1909. From inception, Florida Garden Lands was intended to be a rural community contrast to the more suburban communities nearby (Hillsborough County Planning & Growth Management, 1998). The green field area at the south end of 7001 Gibsonton Drive encompasses a natural pond (highlighted in blue, below) that is recognized and identified by the



Florida Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (Wetlands Mapper, 2015).

The community of Trinity Lane requests that Hillsborough County **REJECT** the private **application for Land Use Variance** for the 5.27 +/- acres of **Folio** #50345.0000 in the Florida Garden Lands of Gibsonton. The community of Trinity Lane would like to remind Hillsborough County of its "long history of commitment to sustainability" (Quick Facts on Green Hillsborough, 2015). "Green Hillsborough" which "is not just a slogan, it's a way of doing business for Hillsborough County. For years, Hillsborough County government has been making strides to protect the local environment..." (Green Hillsborough, 2015). Hillsborough County Public Works department's program, *Lakes, Ponds, and Streams* "helps citizens manage the health of neighborhood waterbodies and stormwater ponds" (Quick Facts on Green Hillsborough, 2015). The community of Trinity Lane is requesting that Hillsborough County "help" us manage the health of the natural pond located on the green field on the south end of 7001 Gibsonton Drive. Hillsborough County has a vested interest in the health of this pond as Hillsborough County actually owns the emergent wetland (highlighted in green, above).

Recommendations to Hillsborough County for maintaining and improving their environmental sustainability, based on "Green Hillsborough" commitments:

- "In Green Building and Development Programs:
 - o County Development Services gives priority status to reviews on "green" development projects (Quick Facts on Green Hillsborough, 2015).
 - Recommendation Hillsborough County should verify the validity of all applications associated with proposed green projects to prevent deception and possible fraud from unscrupulous applicants.
- "In Water and Wastewater Treatment:
 - Hillsborough County Public Utilities encourages water conservation through a comprehensive program that includes year-round watering restrictions, outreach and education..." (Quick Facts on Green Hillsborough, 2015).
 - Recommendation Hillsborough County should investigate the use of precious water by Construction and Demolition materials recycling companies to prevent over use and abuse of water resources.
 - Determine the source of the water used to fill trucks that spray the crushed concrete and asphalt stockpiles in an effort to reduce the enormous amount of debris and dust that is released directly into the air.
- "On Natural Resources and Environmental Issues:
 - The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) of Hillsborough County regulates pollution activities through inspections, monitoring and permitting Air Management Division, the Waste Management Division, the Water Management Division and the Wetlands Management Division. In 1967, the EPC was created by a special act of the Florida Legislature to control and regulate activities that may cause pollution..." (Quick Facts on Green Hillsborough, 2015).
 - Recommendation Especially since Hillsborough County along with many municipalities is a producer of C&D materials and purchaser of recycled (crushed) concrete and asphalt, Hillsborough County should increase their vendor inspections to ensure that the C&D materials sold and bought be processed at a site that is certified by EPC.
 - **Recommendation** Air Management Division of Hillsborough County should increase the monitoring of air quality at and around C&D materials recycling sites.
 - Crushed concrete contains the human carcinogen, crystalline silica, and is "Toxic - Harmful by Inhalation" (Lafarge Crushed Concrete Material Safety Data Sheet, 2011).
 - Recycled asphalt emits a petroleum odor, contains the human carcinogen, crystalline silica, and is "Toxic Harmful by Inhalation" (Lafarge Recycled Asphalt Material Safety Data Sheet, 2011).
 - **Recommendation** the Wetlands Management Division of Hillsborough County should increase the monitoring of the County owned emergent wetland located on Folio # 050341-0100 to determine the level of contamination from industrial pollutants.

The community of Trinity Lane requests that Hillsborough County **REJECT** the private **application for Land Use Variance** for the 5.27 +/- acres of **Folio** #50345.0000 in the Florida Garden Lands of Gibsonton. The occupant of this property located at 7001 Gibsonton Drive, Pro Way Construction has demonstrated their contempt for the environment by performing industrial recycling of concrete and asphalt Construction and Demolition materials. While these materials are valuable resources for sustainable construction, every effort must be taken to ensure that the life and welfare of the surrounding environment be protected from the air and groundwater contaminants that are a byproduct of the industry. The previous actions showing disregard of Hillsborough County rulings and regulations by Pro Way Construction and its manager, Rob Vollmer, dictates that no further allowances, variances, or permits be afforded to them until they abide by the rulings and complete the stipulations that have been ignored by them at their Phillips Lane and all other offending locations.



Cackling, 2015 – Picture of green field at south end of 7001 Gibsonton Drive taken Sep 25, 2015.

References

- Cackling, M. (n.d.). Cackling, 2015.
- Community Sustainability Assessment. (2015, Aug 27). Retrieved from GEN Global Ecovillage Network: http://gen.ecovillage.org/en/node/5039
- Google Maps, (2013). 10403 Trinity Lane. Retrieved from https://www.google.com/maps/place/10403+trinity+lane,+gibsonton,+fl/@27.8477409,-82.3789937,3a,75y,271.11h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m4!1s8A7iW1R1BQOUaU-rFP3aNw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x39c24631de635ba6!6m1!1e1
- Green Hillsborough. (2015). Retrieved Sep 26, 2015, from EPC of Hillsborough County: http://www.epchc.org/index.aspx?nid=141
- hcpafl. (2015). Retrieved Sept 24, 2015, from Hillsborough County Property Appraiser: http://gis.hcpafl.org/PropertySearch/#/parcel/basic/1930261RR000000K00000U
- Hillsborough County Planning & Growth Management. (1998, Oct). Hillsborough County Historic Resources Survey Report: Florida Gardenlands. (U. o. Florida, Ed.) Retrieved Sept 11, 2015, from Community Atlas: Hillsborough: www.hillsborough.communityatlas.usf.edu/.../HILLSBOROUGH COUN...
- Lafarge Crushed Concrete Material Safety Data Sheet. (2011, Mar 01). Retrieved Sep 26, 2015, from precast.org: precast.org/dev/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Lafarge-MSDS.pdf
- Lafarge Recycled Asphalt Material Safety Data Sheet. (2011, Mar 01). Retrieved Sep 26, 2015, from Lafarge NA: www.lafarge-na.com/MSDS_North_America_English_-_RAP.pdf
- Quick Facts on Green Hillsborough. (2015). Retrieved Sep 26, 2015, from EPC of Hillsborough County: http://www.epchc.org/index.aspx?NID=274
- Wetlands Mapper. (2015, June 12). Retrieved Sept 11, 2015, from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory: http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.HTML

Location: Hillsborough County, FLHelp

Case Summary
Case No. 14-CA-011889

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY vs PHILLIPS LANE LLC § Case Type: Injunction

§ Date Filed: 11/26/2014§ Location: Division K

§ Judicial Officer: Levens, William P

§ Uniform Case Number: 292014CA011889A001HC

§ §

Party Information

Attorneys

Defendant PHILLIPS LANE LLC

Defendant PRO WAY CONSTRUCTION GROUP LLC BRIAN FREDERICK STAYTON

Retained

813-662-9829(W)

Defendant PRO WAY RECLYCLING & CRUSHING LLC BRIAN FREDERICK STAYTON

Retained

813-662-9829(W)

Plaintiff HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY KENNETH C POPE, Esquire

Retained

813-272-5670(W)

Events & Orders of the Court

OTHER EVENTS AND HEARINGS

11/26/2014 LETTER TO CLERK FROM

CHERYL E LONERGAN

11/26/2014 CIVIL COVER SHEET

11/26/2014 | COMPLAINT

11/26/2014 | REQUEST FOR DIVISION ASSIGNMENT (E-FILING)

11/26/2014 E-FILED REQUEST FOR SUMMONS TO BE ISSUED

11/26/2014 | E-FILED REQUEST FOR SUMMONS TO BE ISSUED

11/26/2014 | E-FILED REQUEST FOR SUMMONS TO BE ISSUED

11/26/2014 | E-FILED SUMMONS ISSUED

X 3 Ionerganc@hillsboroughcounty.org

12/22/2014 20 DAYS SUMMONS RETURNED SERVED

ON PHILLIPS LANE LLC ON DECEMBER 3, 2014

Date Served: 12/03/2014

12/24/2014 | MOTION FOR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION

Party: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

12/24/2014 EXHIBIT

A #21947379

12/29/2014 20 DAYS SUMMONS RETURNED SERVED

PRO WAY CONSTRUCTION GROUP LLC 12/9/14

12/29/2014 20 DAYS SUMMONS RETURNED SERVED

PRO WAY RECYCLING & CRUSHING LLC 12/9/14

12/30/2014 | MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Party: PRO WAY CONSTRUCTION GROUP LLC
Party: PRO WAY RECLYCLING & CRUSHING LLC

01/05/2015 NOTICE OF HEARING

on February 4, 2015 at 2:30 P.M.

01/07/2015 MOTION FOR DEFAULT BY CLERK

Party: PHILLIPS LANE LLC

01/08/2015 DEFAULT ENTERED BY CLERK

MAILED ON 1/8/15

Party: PHILLIPS LANE LLC

01/09/2015 | MOTION FOR DEFAULT

BY THE COURT

Party: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

01/09/2015 NOTICE OF HEARING

02/04/15 @2:30PM CR 520 - MOTION FOR DEFAULT BY THE COURT

01/09/2015 | ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR INJUCTIVE RELIEF
Party: PRO WAY CONSTRUCTION GROUP LLC
Party: PRO WAY RECLYCLING & CRUSHING LLC

01/09/2015 NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

OF MTN FOR DEFAULT BY COURT

01/09/2015 | MOTION FOR FINAL JUDGMENT

AFTER DEFAULT AGAINST PHILLIPS LANE

Party: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

01/09/2015 AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

2/4/15 230PM

01/22/2015 | AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

3/12/15 @ 10:30AM ROOM 520

01/29/2015 REPLY TO AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES 03/10/2015 AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

4/9/15 @ 2:30 P.M.

04/13/2015 ORDER

STIPULATED ORDER IN LIEU OF IMMEDIATE IMPOSITION OF TEMPORARY INJUNCTION WPL 4/13/15

06/10/2015 | NOTICE OF HEARING

07/02/2015 1:30 PM

07/06/2015 | **STIPULATED ORDER** (Judicial Officer: Levens, William P)

IMPOSING INJUNCTION.....07/06/15 WPL

Party: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Date 2: 07/06/2015

Financial Information

Plaintiff HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Total Financial Assessment430.00Total Payments and Credits430.00Balance Due as of 09/25/20150.00

 11/26/2014
 Transaction Assessment
 430.00

 11/26/2014
 Governmental Charges
 Receipt # 08-00110592
 HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
 (430.00)