

HILLSBOROUGH

Council OKs Zoning For West End Phase 2

June 29, 2007

Source: The Tampa Tribune

TAMPA—A development plan that was criticized because it offered a \$225,000 grant to a neighborhood agency received zoning approval Thursday night.

Tampa City Council voted 6-0, with member Charlie Miranda absent, to support Morin Development Group's proposal to build 296 apartments, 103 condominiums, seven town homes and 22,000 square feet of retail and office space in an area bounded by Fig and Gray streets and Fremont and Oregon avenues.

This is the second phase of the West End project. The first phase, which is adjacent, contains 235 condominiums, 50 town homes, 250 apartments and 8,000 square feet of retail. Both projects combined are estimated to cost \$240 million to build.

At a June 14 zoning hearing, Miranda raised concerns about the project. He objected to a grant the developer offered the West Tampa Community Development Corp., an advocacy group for the neighborhood. Miranda questioned the ethics of having an agreement between the groups while a development was still being considered for zoning.

Morin pulled the grant money that was intended to assist first-time homebuyers and home repairs in West Tampa.

Under the first phase, which was approved in November, Morin reached an agreement with the CDC giving the advocacy group a \$525,000 grant for first-time homebuyers and home repairs in West Tampa.

Ken Morin, managing partner of Morin Development Group, said Thursday the money will remain in a trust under his company's name. The applicant must first apply for an existing city program.

A second and final zoning hearing will be held in July.