

## **Current Challenges**

The following major community challenges were brought to the City Commission's attention. As a result, the City appropriated funds for this plan. The challenges are organized into the eight categories used throughout the plan:

### **1. Administration**

- Need for a coordinated communications network between the City of Sarasota and the various community action groups

### **2. Economic Development**

- Loss of local neighborhood businesses on Dr. MLK Jr. Way
- Leakage of local dollars to businesses outside of the community
- Availability of accessible quality jobs for the residents
- Lack of African-American owned businesses in the community

### **3. Housing**

- Degradation of housing conditions throughout the community
- Lack of funds available for single family housing rehabilitation
- Lack of housing infill policies and design guidelines
- Low rates of home ownership
- Concentration and degradation of the public housing facilities
- Need for systematic code enforcement

### **4. Land use**

- Encroachment on residential portions of the neighborhood by Ringling School, commercial zoning and development along U.S. 301 and U.S. 41, industrial and public facilities intrusions on the north and south boundaries of the neighborhood
- Lack of mixed-use developments along Dr. MLK Jr. Way

### **5. Transportation**

- U.S. 301 and U.S. 41 have bypassed the community
- High speeds through the neighborhoods
- Inappropriate bus schedules
- Railroad tracks and conflicts with residential neighborhoods

### **6. Community health safety and welfare**

- Unsafe neighborhoods
- Drug abuse and drug related crime
- Prostitution
- Lack of appropriate activities for youth
- Lack of level of service standards for neighborhood parks
- Lower than average high school graduation rates and Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores