



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 2023

Dear Residents of St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay Region,

Our communities have a reason to celebrate!

*We celebrate the power of **Partnership**.*

In an exciting public-private collaboration, the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, the Hines Historic Gas Plant Partnership, and the Tampa Bay Rays have achieved an agreement for the 86-acre redevelopment of the Historic Gas Plant District that includes a new home for the Tampa Bay Rays! Months of thoughtful discussion and deliberation have resulted in a financially responsible deal that will transform the entire Tampa Bay area for generations to come.

*We celebrate **Inclusive Progress** for our entire community, based on shared **Priorities**.*

Intentional equity is at the core of the Historic Gas Plant Redevelopment and builds on all five of my administration's Pillars for Progress: 1) Education and Youth Opportunities; 2) Equitable Development, Arts and Business Opportunities; 3) Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods; 4) Housing Opportunities for All; and 5) Environment, Infrastructure and Resilience.

Lifting up residents from every part of St. Pete is imperative for our city's success. You can expect dynamic growth from the largest development project in the region to: create more jobs, provide more affordable/workforce housing, feature top-notch educational and cultural facilities, offer expansive office space, community space and green space, and generate impactful economic development, including equitable opportunities for local and minority businesses. This project will be a prosperous game changer for those who live in, work in, and visit St. Petersburg.

*We celebrate this significant step towards honoring **Promises Made**.*

Like many others, I used to call the Gas Plant home. Some forty years ago, my family's livelihood was uprooted with the promise of economic opportunity that would improve and enhance their lives. Now, we have a chance to fulfill those promises and preserve the legacy of the Historic Gas Plant neighborhood.

In his poem, "Harlem," Langston Hughes asks, "What happens to a dream deferred?" As to the legacy of the Historic Gas Plant community, a dream deferred will no longer be a dream denied!

In Celebration,

Mayor Kenneth T. Welch

WE ARE ST. PETE