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To the St Pete City Council,

My husband and I have been residents of St Pete (Old Northeast) for 15 years. We are fans of the City and ALL it has to offer, including baseball. Yes, we are baseball fans. We are fans of the Tampa Bay Rays specifically and more generally of what the baseball organization brings to the City and region. Yes, it brings money to businesses here. But it also brings positivity, a sense of community, and fun. It would be a significant loss if the Rays would finally say, enough.

We know the issues facing the city on the redevelopment of the Trop parcel are very complicated and all are important. And, we appreciate the effort that the City Council and staff are making to come to the best decision. We've reviewed the proposal, read numerous opinion pieces and news articles, and thought long and hard about what it brings to the city as a whole (not just baseball fans). And we are for it!

It would be a great loss to the city if the proposal isn't approved. Not just because I believe that it would probably be the last straw for the MLB and Rays organization and we can wave goodbye to MLB baseball here. But more importantly, because we like the mix of uses (residential, commercial and cultural) that is proposed). We're willing to see our tax dollars assist in the endeavour.

And also, let's get on with it! If this isn't approved, good heavens, it will be another set of proposals, more years of analysis, and a delay in creating something new and exciting at the site.

So to all the City Council, please approve the proposal for redevelopment of the Tropicana site.

Thank you for your consideration,

Annette and Jerome Baesel