



City of St Petersburg and Pinellas County Commission:
Regarding: Tampa Bay Rays New Stadium and Development Project

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I write this letter to support the Tampa Bay Rays new stadium and planned development proposal.

This project greatly enhances the Tampa Bay area by securing a home for the very successful major league baseball franchise – the Tampa Bay Rays. They have been an area fixture since inception in 1998 providing top-level wholesome athletic competition for the enjoyment of fans of all ages. More importantly, they have embraced the health and wellbeing of all and support that mission with initiatives such as Reading With The Rays, Rays Jersey Program, Team Smile, Military Salute, Scholarships and more.

With more than \$6 billion in private investment, we understand that this would be the largest mixed-used development in the history of the region. On the 86 acres where Tropicana Field and a sea of parking lots sit now, the Hines/Rays plan supported by St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch and his administration calls for the development of a vibrant mixed-use destination and a new community ballpark that honors the legacy of the neighborhood that once thrived on the site.

Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) has been a proud Ray's partner for many years. That partnership has brought valuable messaging about underage alcohol consumption through communication in the stadium of the "Talk. They Hear You" campaign. This campaign encourages families to set standards and have the talk with their youth about why alcohol and other substances are not good for them and how to say no. Enjoying an outing at the Rays games is the perfect time to have the talk with youth as they participate in the enjoyment of watching athletic competition at the highest level. Let's ensure that the rays are here for generations to come.

Sincerely

Alan Davidson, MA, LMHC
President and CEO

CFBHN is your Managing Entity for the Suncoast Region funded through the Florida Department of Children and Families. CFBHN develops and manages a total safety net system for behavioral health care (substance misuse and mental health) in 14 counties. Services include prevention, crisis, residential and outpatient. CFBHN is a CARF International (Certified Addictions Receiving Facility) organization and all contracted community providers adhere to the same standards in their provision of services.



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Central Florida Behavioral Health Network is a Managing Entity contracted with the
Department of Children and Families