

February 29, 2024

Paul Coniglio
Colony Grill Development, LLC dba Colony Grill

RE: Support for the Tampa Bay Rays and Hines Historic Gas Plant Development Project

Dear Members of the St. Petersburg City Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Historic Gas Plant Development project proposed by Hines and the Tampa Bay Rays. I am the Co-Founder and CEO of Colony Grill, and our restaurant group owns and operates nine locations along the east coast with approximately 450 employees. We opened our Colony Grill location in downtown St. Petersburg during 2021, have been partners with the Rays organization since 2022, and we believe this project presents an incredible opportunity for our community and for local businesses like ours.

This Historic Gas Plant Development project has the potential to revitalize and transform a key area of our city, creating new opportunities for economic growth and community engagement. By repurposing the historic gas plant site, this project will preserve an important piece of St. Petersburg's history while also breathing new life into the area. One of the most exciting aspects of this project is the proposed mixed-use development, which includes diverse residential, commercial, and recreational spaces, which will provide housing opportunities and jobs for our community. This diverse array of offerings will attract residents, visitors, and businesses alike, fostering a vibrant and dynamic community that will benefit us all.

As a local business owner, I am particularly excited about the potential for increased foot traffic and economic activity that the Historic Gas Plant Development project will bring to downtown St. Petersburg. More visitors to the area means more potential customers for businesses like mine, helping to support our growth and success. Furthermore, the commitment of the Tampa Bay Rays to this project demonstrates their continued dedication to our community and their vision for a brighter future for St. Petersburg. By partnering with a respected developer like Hines, they have assembled a team with the expertise and resources necessary to bring this project to fruition in a way that will benefit us all.

In conclusion, I urge the St. Petersburg City Council to support the Historic Gas Plant Development project proposed by the Tampa Bay Rays and Hines. This project represents a tremendous opportunity to enhance our city's vitality, preserve its history, and create a more prosperous future for all who call St. Petersburg home. Please feel free to contact me at 203-613-3403 or pconiglio@colonygrill.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Coniglio