

March 12, 2024

Copley Gerdes
Brandi Gabbard
Ed Montanari
St. Petersburg City Council
PO Box 2842
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

Lisset Hanewicz
Deborah Figgs-Sanders
Gina Drisoll

John Muhammad
Richie Floyd

Dear Council Members;

Tampa Bay has emerged as one of the best sports regions in the country with the Buccaneers, Lightning, and Rays consistently dominating their respective leagues. CHAMPA Bay is a very hard-earned title and one we hope to anchor in our area's DNA.

The Tampa Bay Rays have been a pillar in our community going back almost three decades. Despite playing in the most challenging division in baseball and competing against teams from much larger metro areas, the Rays have excelled admirably on the field. In fact, since 2008, only the Yankees and Dodgers have won more games than our Tampa Bay Rays. We fully expect a 6th straight post-season appearance this year and perhaps our first World Series title!

With the team's lease expiring after the 2027 season, the time to prioritize a new home for our Tampa Bay Rays on terms beneficial to all participants is now. The Hines/Rays Historic Gas Plant Development proposal combines an intimate new ballpark with a visionary mixed-use development that includes affordable housing, office and retail space, hotels and green space. Hines is a global developer with a proven track record in Florida and the nation, and the Rays have been an outstanding civic partner throughout Tampa Bay.

This proposal will bring more than \$6 billion in private investment, create thousands of jobs, act as an economic driver for the entire region -- and keep our Major League Baseball franchise here for generations to come.

As active members in our CHAMPA Bay community, we the undersigned support this great next step to keep the Tampa Bay Rays here! Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us if we can provide additional commitment to this written word.

We have deep respect and appreciation for your service to our community and your responsibility in making this decision. Please support the Rays and the Hines/Rays development proposal—we certainly do.

Most sincerely,
Best,

Carlos Alfonso
CEO, Alliant Partners, LLC
Trevor Baldwin
CEO, BRP Group, Inc.

Barney Barnett
Retired Vice Chairman, Publix Super Markets
Alan C. Bomstein
CEO, Creative Contractors, Inc.

Stephanie D. Conners

CEO, BayCare Health System

Brett Couch

Sr. Exec VP, Regions Bank

John D. Couris

President & CEO, Tampa General Hospital

Thomas L. duPont

Publisher, REGISTRY Tampa Bay

C. Samuel Ellison

Chairman, Ellison Construction

Maryann Ferenc

President & CEO, Mise en Place Hospitality Group

Richard Gonzmart

President, Columbia Restaurant Group

Howard Heckes

President & CEO, Masonite International Corp.

Gordon L. Johnson

President, Highway Safety Devices, Inc.

Ken Jones

Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Third Lake Partners

A.D. "Sandy" MacKinnon

CEO ADM Family LTD

Allan S. Martin

Chairman, Atlantic Merchant Capital Investors

Larry C. Morgan

Chairman, Morgan Auto Group

Harold W. Mullis

President Emeritus, Trenam Law

Tom Pepin

President & CEO, Pepin Distributing Company

Lou Plasencia

CEO, The Plasencia Group

John Ramil

President/CEO Retired, TECO Energy

Kathleen Shanahan

CEO, New Leaders 2024

Craig Sher

Chairman, Backstreets Capital

Hon. Alex Sink

State of Florida CFO (2007 – 2011)

Tready A. Smith

CEO, Bayshore Capital

Chris Sullivan

Partner, MVP Holdings

Chuck Sykes

Managing Partner, CES Advisory, LLC

Lorna Taylor

President, Premier Eye Care

Jeff Vinik

Owner, Tampa Bay Lightning