



299 1st Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

March 26, 2024

Saint Petersburg City Councilmembers
City of St Petersburg, Florida
175 Fifth St. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Subject: Historic Gas Plant Development project in St. Petersburg, Florida

Dear Councilmembers:

Duke Energy Florida is proud to support the Tampa Bay Rays ("Rays") Historic Gas Plant Development project in St. Petersburg, Fla., which we believe will not only provide much-needed benefit to individuals within our community, but it will also have a significant economic impact on local businesses.

Our position of support comes from our many years of collaboration with the Rays and the entire St. Petersburg community. From the initial days of the team when Florida Power, our predecessor company, had a minority ownership stake in the team through our current corporate sponsorship today, we have seen a demonstrated commitment to the community. The team's current leadership has made significant impacts throughout their nearly 20-year tenure. Not only have they put winning teams on the field, but the Rays also excel at civic engagement. The team provides financial support to numerous organizations from the Big Brothers Big Sisters to the Pinellas County Urban League. More importantly, the Rays take an active role in a diverse group of nonprofit organizations, community agencies and philanthropic endeavors. Additionally, the Rays are very generous with their facilities, providing access for organizations to hold meetings and allowing Duke Energy to stage up to 1100 out-of-town electric line personnel to stage trucks and equipment over the course of several hurricanes.

Based on our long-standing history with the Tampa Bay Rays, as well as the Rays' dedication to St. Petersburg community over the many years, Duke Energy Florida supports the Tampa Bay Rays and the economic impacts of the planned Historic Gas Plant Site. We believe the Rays are truly invested in the future of the Gas Plant district and will continue to be an integral part of the St. Petersburg area.

Duke Energy is just one voice among many, but we gladly stand with the Rays and strongly endorse this project. In collaboration with the Rays, we believe this project will create a strong foundation for our community for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Melissa Seixas,
Duke Energy Florida President