



Because food makes tomorrow possible.

Honorable Deborah Figgs-Sanders
St. Petersburg City Council
175 Fifth Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Re: The Hines Historic Gas Plant Partnership and the Tampa Bay Rays

Dear Chairwoman Figgs-Sanders,

On behalf of Feeding Tampa Bay, I am proud to support the Tampa Bay Rays and their partnership with Hines to bring to life the Historic Gas Plant District development. We are thrilled to see the transformation this investment will bring as it will not only impact St. Petersburg but it will create growth and other investment opportunities throughout the entire region. As Feeding Tampa Bay embarks on its own trajectory of growth with the mission to bring solutions to our community, we are embracing innovation, and adaptability, that will propel us to reshape the very terrain of food insecurity. With this in mind, we support the vision of this project that will bring equitable economic opportunities as well as honor the rich legacy and culture of the Historic Gas Plant District.

We believe the Rays and their partners are poised to actively create intentional equitable initiatives that will pave the path to housing, small business development, employment and educational opportunities, as well as thoughtful community outreach. The Rays are a proven partner in this community, for the last twenty-five years, their focus on education through community wide scholarships, youth development that includes mentorship opportunities, wellness and social responsibility programs, have all created long lasting results and changed the trajectory of people's lives and the communities they serve. The monumental Historic Gas Plant District development will offer opportunities for deeper investments and will create the possibility for economic prosperity and inclusion for all residents. This development will complement the services Feeding Tampa Bay offers in our Pinellas empowerment center, whose foundational elements bring community partners together to provide a holistic solution to the needs of Pinellas County by addressing food insecurity, breaking language, transportation, and financial barriers that the community faces every day.

We wholeheartedly support this project, I believe it will be the catalyst to creating a vibrant, resilient community that will help transform our region. I respectfully request that you support this development as its impact will be felt for generations to come.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Mantz".

Thomas Mantz
President & CEO