



## Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg

March 8, 2024

Dear Mayor Welch, Members of St. Petersburg's City Council, Leadership of the Rays/Hines Development Team, and others who share responsibility for shaping the redevelopment of the Historic Gas Plant site:

As you deliberate and continue to develop plans to redevelop the Historic Gas Plant District, please note this letter of support for this important and historic step forward.

The site's redevelopment has the potential to shape outcomes for generations of community members who call our great city home. Embedding our shared commitment to racial and health equity throughout the process will not only honor the historic promises and people who originally lived and worked in the Gas Plant community; it will catalyze equitable growth, elevate possibilities, and create opportunities for our residents who need them most.

In keeping with our work to achieve health equity through the advancement of racial equity, The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg looks forward to continued partnership and support of the work to assure equity remains a key focus of every element of the site's development.

We have already started, in partnership with the principals of the proposed development, to plan how the Foundation may specifically support goals for community awareness and education, workforce training and placement, and the inclusion of equitable practices that proactively answer the potential of this transformational opportunity. Our community can count on this partnership from the Foundation not only during the site's initial development, but throughout the time of its future operations and impact.

So often a community's work to address deficits in its social determinants of health is relegated to re-engineering existing systems and built environments. This unprecedented redevelopment presents the unique opportunity to develop the site in a way that serves as a catalytic enzyme that models and sparks, for other parts of our community and elsewhere, the highest principles of inclusive, equitable, health-focused development from concept to completion. Such effort requires subject matter expertise, resources, and unwavering commitment to elevate equity as a core component of the project. The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg is a ready and able partner in the pursuit of all these requisite goals.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community and the many ways you serve it every day. May that same passionate dedication be the prevailing determinant for your work to implement what is best for the 270,000 residents who call St. Pete home today, and all those this project will attract in the future.

In Shared Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kanika Tomalin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent blue ink color.

Dr. Kanika Tomalin  
President and Chief Executive Officer