



January 2, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council of St Petersburg, Florida
PO Box 2842
St Petersburg, FL 33731

Dear City Council Members:

I write today on behalf of Hancock Whitney Bank in strong support of the proposed Historic Gas Plant District Development. After a tremendous amount of good-faith work and collaboration between the City of St Petersburg, Pinellas County, the Hines Historic Gas Plant Partnership, and the Tampa Bay Rays, we now have the opportunity to move forward with an innovative, inclusive, and transformative redevelopment of this very important part of our City. The undertaking is ambitious, and will yield significant jobs, provide workforce/affordable housing, feature first-class educational and cultural facilities, much needed office space, community space, green space, and equitable economic development.

To make such an ambitious and important undertaking successful, a strong central “anchor” around which to build and gather is critical. I can’t think of a better nucleus for these efforts than our hometown Tampa Bay Rays and the state-of-the-art stadium they propose. The benefits of retaining the Rays in St Petersburg are numerous – with some being easily quantifiable and others more intangible. Certainly we can all agree we couldn’t ask for a better corporate citizen than the Tampa Bay Rays.

Reaching this juncture has been arduous and elusive, and allowing this opportunity slip from our grasp is something I believe we would look back on with much regret. I urge you to move forward with Mayor Welch’s proposed public-private collaboration for the Historic Gas Plant District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Timothy J. Coop'.

Timothy J. Coop
Tampa Bay Regional President
Hancock Whitney Bank
100 Second Avenue North, Suite 200
St Petersburg, FL 33704
Timothy.coop@hancockwhitney.com
727-460-0741



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