



April 3, 2024

Dear St. Petersburg City Council members,

The Hines/Rays Historic Gas Plant Development proposal will significantly contribute to the quality of life and the overall economy of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, and the Tampa Bay region. I strongly endorse this ambitious vision, and I encourage you to support it.

As I have said before, a major league region needs Major League Baseball. Successful sports franchises unite communities, foster growth, and drive economic development. The Tampa Bay Rays are a valuable regional asset, and the Hines/Rays development will secure the future of our MLB franchise, provide impressive community benefits, and produce a significant return on investment for taxpayers.

The Tampa Bay Rays, much like the Tampa Bay Lightning, play a crucial role in our community on and off the field. They generate a sense of pride throughout Tampa Bay and put our region on the map, both nationally and internationally. We do not want to join the list of other communities that have lost their MLB franchises and regretted it.

With the expertise of Hines as a development partner, I am confident this exciting mixed-use development will be high quality and create the housing, retail, office space and overall neighborhood experience St. Petersburg is seeking. These types of public-private partnerships and strategic investments have proven successful in other cities, where both local governments and residents have benefited.

For example, Water Street Tampa's initial phase, anchored by Amalie Arena and the Tampa Bay Lightning, is contributing \$520 million in economic impact each year for the region. Millions in property and sales tax revenue will be reinvested in the community, and more than 6,000 permanent jobs are being created. Successful mixed-use developments need an attractor like the Lightning and Amalie Arena, or the Rays and their new ballpark. The Hines/Rays development will also be an economic driver that will create thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue over time.

I am a firm believer of the power of collaboration between the public and private sectors to bring visionary projects to life. Your dedication to advancing the future of St. Petersburg and the entire Tampa Bay region through this redevelopment initiative is commendable, and I wholeheartedly support the positive impact the Hines/Rays Historic Gas Plant Development proposal will have on our community for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership and ongoing commitment to a brighter future for Tampa Bay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Vinik".

Jeff Vinik  
Chairman & Governor