

January 18, 2024



St. Petersburg City Council
City of St. Petersburg
P.O. Box 2842
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

Dear City Council Members:

Metro Inclusive Health recognizes the profound impact community development projects can have in fostering healthy, inclusive, and thriving communities. As a leading advocate and provider of health equity for communities that are often underserved and marginalized, METRO emphatically supports the Historic Gas Plant District redevelopment project set forth by the Tampa Bay Rays and Hines.

This proposal represents a generational opportunity for St. Petersburg. It is more than just a real estate development; it's a vision for a more connected, and vibrant community with a commitment to bridging communities by creating spaces that are accessible to all.

There is no question that health equity is not just about access to care, it's also about environments that support an enhanced quality of life. This vision addresses fundamental needs such as affordable housing, good paying jobs, green spaces, arts avenues, and a state-of-the-art baseball stadium. All of which are winning elements for the promotion of overall health and wellbeing in our city. Importantly, these developments will directly benefit the individuals and communities we serve, particularly those who have faced barriers to health and prosperity.

Fostering a cityscape rich in resources and opportunities aligns closely with our mission of creating a healthier and more inclusive community. In this way, the project not only enhances the physical landscape of St. Petersburg but also nurtures the growth and empowerment of its residents, resonating deeply with the core values of Metro Inclusive Health.

The Tampa Bay Rays have shown an unwavering commitment to celebrating diversity and making inclusion a priority. We at METRO are grateful for their role in helping to establish St. Pete's stellar reputation as a place where LGBTQ+ individuals can live without fear of discrimination or exclusion.

That's why Metro Inclusive Health is in full support of the Tampa Bay Rays and Hines blueprint to build a more inclusive, equitable, and healthy community now and for the future of St. Pete. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priya Rajkumar".

Priya Rajkumar
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Bailey".

Brian Bailey
Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer