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To: Council Member Lisset Hanewicz
Email: lisset.hanewicz@stpete.org

CC: Cynthia Sheppard, Administrative Officer (cynthia.sheppard@stpete.org); Rafaela Amador Fink, Tampa Bay Rays (ramador@raysbaseball.com);
Chris Steinocher, St. Pete Chamber of Commerce (csteinocher@stpete.com)

Subject: A Call to Support the Rays Stadium and Gas Plant District Redevelopment

Dear St. Council Member Hanewicz,

Firstly, thank you for all you do for District 4 and the City of St. Petersburg. I'm tossing my hat — into the ring in support of the Tampa Bay Rays' New Stadium and Gas Plant District facelift, all hand-in-hand with Hines. As a resident of Pinellas County, specifically Old Northeast in St. Petersburg, Business Development Director at Modiphy, and a proud St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce member, I see this project as a game-changer for our community and our county.



Economic Growth and Job Creation

From my vantage point in business development, this initiative is the spark plug we need. It promises to attract new businesses, increase tax revenue, and roll out job opportunities during and after construction. A revitalized Gas Plant District, alongside a new stadium, will draw visitors and residents alike, supercharging our local economy.

Benefits for Old Northeast

Living in Old Northeast, I'm incredibly excited about the spillover benefits. Imagine the buzz—the foot traffic that stops, shops, and raves about our community. This project will inject vitality into our local businesses and significantly enhance our infrastructure, increasing curb appeal and making our neighborhood a sought-after spot for long-term residents.

Addressing Concerns

Change stirs the pot, and concerns have been voiced. However, I see the public record as transparent and truthful. The Rays are committed to responsible development, focusing on affordable housing and sustainability. The financial strategy is sound, with the Rays bearing a significant financial burden and making sure taxpayer dollars are used wisely.

A Time for Bold Action

This isn't just an opportunity; it's our moment to shine, demonstrating that St. Petersburg is a major player on the urban stage. With your deep commitment to our community's development and your leadership roles on critical committees, this project aligns perfectly with your vision for a vibrant and inclusive St. Petersburg. It is our chance to build thoughtfully and inclusively, integrating economic, environmental, and social benefits. Please approve this proposal, and let's start building not just buildings but a shared future.

Thank you for considering this transformative proposal and for all the hard work you do for our community. Your leadership in transforming St. Petersburg into a sustainable and inclusive community is inspiring.
