

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

St. Petersburg, Florida Branch Unit #5130
P.O. Box 35123
St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Petersburg NAACP Stands in Unanimous Support of Rays | Hines Historic Gas Plant Development Project

St. Petersburg, FL – Esther Matthews, President of the St. Petersburg NAACP, has announced the organization's resolute support for the Rays | Hines Historic Gas Plant Development Project, underscoring the initiative's alignment with the NAACP's strategic Game Changers, particularly in the realm of multi-generational economic development.

In a recent vote, the NAACP Executive Committee unanimously endorsed the project, recognizing its potential to catalyze opportunities for future generations, with a special focus on empowering the African American community and businesses in St. Petersburg.

"The Rays | Hines Historic Gas Plant Development Project is more than just an infrastructure endeavor; it's a beacon of hope for economic revitalization and social justice," said Matthews. "This project embodies our commitment to securing the economic sustainability of our community by ensuring African American businesses and the wider community benefit significantly from this development."

The project promises to deliver a multitude of opportunities for local African American entrepreneurs and workers, offering paths to ownership, employment, and the cultivation of a vibrant local economy reflective of the community's diversity and resilience.

Matthews further highlighted the NAACP's role in advocating for the inclusion of measures that ensure the project not only fosters economic growth but does so equitably. "We stand ready to collaborate with the Rays, Hines, and city officials to ensure this development serves as a model for inclusive growth that other cities can emulate," Matthews added.

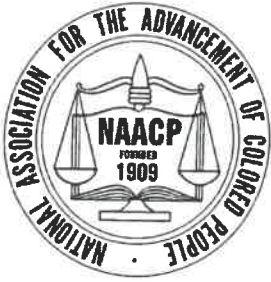
As the project unfolds, the St. Petersburg NAACP will continue to champion the importance of community involvement and oversight, ensuring that the promises made are promises kept, and that the Historic Gas Plant Development Project becomes a cornerstone of economic empowerment for the African American community in St. Petersburg for generations to come.

About St. Petersburg NAACP:

The St. Petersburg NAACP, led by President Esther Matthews, is dedicated to the community's social, economic, and educational development. It strives to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination and ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons.

Contact:

Esther Matthews, President
St. Petersburg NAACP
(727) 900-1170



Esther Matthews, MSW
President

Harry Harvey
1st Vice President

Trenia Cox
2nd Vice President

William "Bill" Puller
"Interim" Treasurer

Dashon Mims
Secretary

Patrice Perry
Assistant Secretary

MISSION:

To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

VISION:

To ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.