

February 5, 2024

City of St. Petersburg City Council
Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Chair
P.O Box 2842
St. Petersburg, Florida 33731

Pastor Clarence Williams
Greater Mt Zion AME Church
1045 16th Street South
St. Petersburg Florida 33705

Dear Chairwoman Sanders.

I wanted to take time to first thank you. The professional and courteous way you and the council members have navigated these intense and critical events of our current city government. These are times when all our community leaders and stakeholders have the responsibility of doing our best for our communities and citizens. Difficult decisions require strong leadership, and I believe we have such leadership in our city council.

My 41 years of ministry and 25 years of service to this community has afforded me the privilege of knowing most of the council members personally. I have seen the growth and progress of our community and would like to see us move forward even further. This letter comes as a letter of support and encouragement for the council to support the vision and plans of the mayor's Historic Gas Plant Redevelopment.

As you know I favored a different plan and was disappointed in some ways. Even so, I felt it would have been wrong for me to allow my own feelings to hinder the process. Since I was standing next to Brian Auld when the announcement was made. I was the first to congratulate him. It's time for us to put aside our personal agendas and come together for the common good. No plan this size can be perfect, and there are challenges to overcome. But to delay and regress now would be a poor use of our resources.

I'm asking the city council to support and manage this project until it's completed. This may be our only opportunity to secure our baseball team and transform our city. This plan will provide housing, business opportunities, as well as cultural and outdoor experiences for our community.

Sincerely,

Pastor Clarence A Williams
Senior Pastor, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church
Board Chair Cross & Anvil Human Services