



MAKING HOMELESSNESS RARE. BRIEF. ONE-TIME.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas, Inc. DBA St. Vincent de Paul CARES
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March 5, 2024

St. Petersburg City Council
C/O Tampa Bay Rays
One Tropicana Drive
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Dear St. Petersburg City Council Members,

St. Vincent de Paul CARES is grateful to be a partner with the City of St. Petersburg to help end homelessness and provide assistance to people living in poverty. We are writing to you to express our support for the Historic Gas Plant Development project proposed by the Tampa Bay Rays and its global development partner, Hines. The Tampa Bay Rays have been a valued partner with SVdP CARES over the years by investing time, talent, and treasure in the work to end homelessness, care for those living in poverty, and provide food to those who are hungry. The Rays not only provide world-class sports and entertainment for our community but also help provide US Veterans, families, and individuals with the chance to thrive. The Rays' support of the mission of SVdP CARES is comprehensive. It is especially moving to see the children's and adults' eyes light up when Santa Raymond comes to the annual Center of Hope Christmas party. The Tampa Bay Rays have invested financially in SVdP CARES. Additionally, they have done volunteer projects to help enhance and refurbish facilities, provided donated items for people receiving care at the shelter and food center, and they have helped bring greater community awareness to the work of SVdP CARES and connected us with other partners to accomplish the goal to end homelessness and care for those in need. SVdP CARES supports the Hines and Rays Historic Gas Plant Development project, which we believe helps lift the entire community by providing opportunities like workforce development, which directly impacts the people served by SVdP CARES through increased job opportunities and greater economic independence. SVdP CARES believes that this project will further enhance all that is good about St. Petersburg.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Raposa
Chief Executive Officer