

T A M P A B A Y
PARTNERSHIP

Cynthia Sheppard
St. Petersburg City Council
175 5th Street North,
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

February 16, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for the Historic Gas Plant District Redevelopment Project

Dear St. Petersburg City Council Members,

On behalf of the nearly 40 regional business and non-profit leaders who compose the Tampa Bay Partnership, I request your support in approving the Historic Gas Plant Redevelopment Project proposed by the Hines Historic Gas Plant Partnership.

Professional sports teams are critical economic drivers, contributing to their communities' economic vibrancy and overall prosperity. As an anchor institution, the Tampa Bay Rays' presence in St. Petersburg and participation in shaping the development project elucidated Hines' bid. The very presence of Major League Baseball increases the viability of revitalizing the 86 acres.

The development plan strategically creates multi-use zones designed to increase the flow of programming and citizen engagement throughout the district's core. This layered infrastructure will be a catalyst for the 86 acres, increasing the economic density in parcels surrounding the stadium. This will generate new tax revenue for both the City and County.

The investment makes good economic sense. The stadium's multi-use appeal can lead to programming (and dollars spent) 365 days a year, stimulating job growth and providing cultural attractions for tourists and residents alike. Additionally, the site plan incorporates solutions that address many areas of highest need: including additions of approximately 1,200 units of affordable housing, 1.4 of additional office space, and more.

Last, the plan will create new jobs, and will attract more investments and talent to the region, helping to solidify Tampa Bay's reputation as a dynamic and desirable place to live, work, and visit.

Investment in the Historic Gas Plant District Redevelopment Project proposed by the Hines/Rays team will enhance the area's livability, providing positive economic development opportunities for our city and region.

The investors of the Tampa Bay Partnership represent approximately 120,000 jobs and have a vested interest in initiatives that improve economic prosperity, job access, and housing affordability in the region. We advocate that the City Council vote favorably to move this project forward.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Bemetra Simmons
President and CEO
Tampa Bay Partnership