



St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch
City of St. Petersburg
PO Box 2842
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
November 1, 2022

November 21, 2022

Dear Mayor Welch:

On behalf of Tampa Bay Wave (WAVE), I am writing this letter of support for the Hines and Tampa Bay Rays RFP proposal. I am most impressed with the thoughtful and comprehensive planning that went into this proposal which intends to build an exciting new ballpark while also honoring the historic Gas Plant site and addressing the many challenges of the region, especially in my hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Founded in 2008, WAVE is a locally based nonprofit with a mission to help entrepreneurs accelerate the growth of innovative startups into break-out tech companies in order to foster the region's growing tech sector, supporting both economic mobility and regional economic growth through new business ownership and high-wage job creation. What was originally founded as a humble meetup group, today Tampa Bay Wave is Florida's #1 Accelerator supporting 150+ tech companies annually. Since launching our programs in 2013, the companies we support have collectively raised \$650 million in investment capital and have created over 4,000 jobs.

For the past two decades, the Tampa Bay Rays have made a long-lasting impact in our community through their generosity to us and many other nonprofits in the region. They also boldly advocate for people in our region who have been historically overlooked because of systemic racism. Thus, they are an incredible partner to Tampa Bay Wave, supporting our annual TechDiversity Accelerator program which advances the elimination of barriers for founders from underrepresented populations in Tampa Bay and communities everywhere.

If successful, WAVE fully supports this project and is committed to ensure its success. We believe this development project will ultimately generate economic opportunities for many and create a strong foundation for our community for decades to come.

With full support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Olson", written in a cursive style.

Linda Olson
President/CEO
Tampa Bay Wave