

THE WOODSON

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF FLORIDA

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May 3, 2024

Honorable Mayor Kenneth Welch, Chair Deborah Figgs-Sanders, and Members of the City Council,

With great enthusiasm, I humbly present this letter of support on behalf of The Woodson African American Museum of Florida. In this pivotal moment in our nation's history, it is paramount that the ideals of "liberty and justice for all" are not merely words, but principles woven into the fabric of our actions and discourse.

St. Petersburg stands on the brink of an extraordinary opportunity to emerge as a beacon of hope, not only within our city limits but across our county, state, and nation. We have the chance to forge a path towards equity and inclusion that will leave an indelible mark on the landscape of our community. St. Petersburg can and must become synonymous with intentional equity and inclusion.

The Woodson African American Museum of Florida is profoundly proud of the strides our local government has made in fostering opportunities for art, culture, and heritage for all residents. Yet, there remains a significant gap in our cultural landscape—an African American Museum of proper stature and significance. We envision this institution not as a mere addition but as an essential component of our city's identity, one that celebrates and honors the rich tapestry of African American culture.

We implore each of our elected officials to wholeheartedly endorse the proposal set before you for the redevelopment of Tropicana Field, inclusive of The Woodson African American Museum of Florida as a cornerstone of this transformative endeavor. Your support, both in principle and in funding, is essential to realize this vision and ensure its enduring success and impact.

Together, let us weave a new chapter in the story of St. Petersburg—one that embraces diversity, celebrates heritage, and fosters unity for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Terri Lipsey Scott
Executive Director