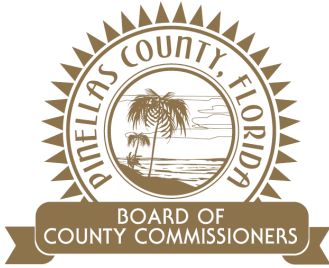


## Eres, Christian

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**From:** Lewis, Jamie E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2024 2:19 PM  
**To:** BCC Agenda Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #30056807

July 30, 2024 Agenda Items: 24-1106A and 24-1221A



Kind Regards,  
**Jamie Elizabeth Lewis**  
**Executive Assistant to**  
**Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners**  
315 Court Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
[jelewis@pinellas.gov](mailto:jelewis@pinellas.gov)  
Phone: (727) 464-3377

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**From:** noreply@fs30.formsite.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2024 12:45 PM  
**To:** Lewis, Jamie E <jelewis@pinellas.gov>  
**Subject:** Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #30056807

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#### Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2024 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6 (2024 Chair)
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

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#### Subject

Stadium

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#### Message

Good day. As you know, St. Petersburg committed to 100% Clean Energy. PLEASE take the time to make the proposed stadium GREEN. It would be a wonderful inspiration and statement to all, not to mention an eventual \$\$\$ savings! Please do not be short-sighted on this major commitment of our tax dollars! Just for starters, there should be a

massive amount of surface there to put solar panels. How hard would that be?! We are living in the "Sunshine State" after all. Climate change is real and I know St. Petersburg is painfully aware of that with the flooding issues that are occurring. Please live up to your promise to use clean energy. This is your big opportunity!

<b>Your Name</b>	Geri Doherty
<b>Your Street Address</b>	1250 S Pinellas Ave, Unit 406
<b>City/Unincorporated County</b>	Tarpon Springs
<b>Zip Code</b>	34689
<b>Your Phone Number</b>	7277439654
<b>Your Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:gdoherty777@yahoo.com">gdoherty777@yahoo.com</a>

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[Report unwanted email.](#)



## Eres, Christian

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**From:** Lugo, Jo A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:16 AM  
**To:** BCC Agenda Comments  
**Cc:** Revie, Derelynn  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of Support | Tampa Bay Rays' New Stadium and Gas Plant District Redevelopment

FYI

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**From:** John Barkett <john@barkettrealty.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2024 5:34 PM  
**To:** Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@pinellas.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support | Tampa Bay Rays' New Stadium and Gas Plant District Redevelopment

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Dear Commissioner Long,

My name is John Barkett and I am writing to you today as a resident of Pinellas County (SPB), a business owner and employer with multiple businesses in St. Petersburg, a Board Member of the MLK Business District and a committed member of the St. Petersburg community for the last twenty-four years. I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the Tampa Bay Rays' visionary plans to build a new stadium alongside Hines, to redevelop the Historic Gas Plant District. This initiative represents a monumental opportunity for our community and beloved county, both in terms of economic development and the enrichment of our local heritage. It will be a foundational step towards fostering a thriving and dynamic Pinellas County that will benefit generations to come.

The concerted effort by the Rays, Hines, City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County to bring this project to fruition speaks volumes about the commitment to economic growth, community enrichment, and sustainable development within Pinellas County. By dispelling myths and presenting clear, transparent insights into the project, our leaders have demonstrated an unwavering dedication to truth and progress that is both admirable and reassuring to us all.

As a resident, I have always valued the history and cultural significance of the Historic Gas Plant District. The Rays' redevelopment plan promises to honor this heritage while transforming the area into a vibrant, modern space that will benefit all members of our community. The inclusion of green spaces, community facilities, and improved infrastructure will greatly enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

In my capacity as a business owner, I recognize the economic potential that this redevelopment project holds. The construction phase alone is projected to create numerous jobs, boosting local employment rates and providing new opportunities for our workforce. Once completed, the influx of visitors and new businesses will stimulate the local economy, increase commerce, and generate additional revenue for our county.

The argument that the Tampa Bay Rays should pay more for the land, without considering the constraints and the comprehensive value they bring to our community, overlooks the fact that the Rays/Hines offer is substantially higher than any other, adjusted for the project's extensive requirements. It's crucial to recognize the unique value that comes with a development of this scale and vision, encompassing not just a stadium but a holistic revitalization of the Gas Plant District with affordable housing, office space, and infrastructure that will serve as a catalyst for further development. I state this from an analytical perspective as well, being a Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI) as well as holding a master's degree from New York University in Real Estate Valuation and Analysis and looking at not only the tangible value but as importantly the intangible value to promises kept and office/job creation along with affordable housing development and infrastructure.

Moreover, concerns regarding financial transparency and potential cost overruns fail to acknowledge the rigorous public record communication and firm commitments made by the Rays and Hines. The pledge of \$700 million by the Rays towards this project, and their accountability for any additional costs, underscores a level of financial responsibility and dedication that should be celebrated and supported.

It is my belief, and that of many within our business and wider community, that the alternative to this project is not a utopian vision uniquely tailored to individual preferences, but rather the practical and collaborative effort required to realize a shared dream for Pinellas County. The partnership with Hines, leveraging the drawing power of the Tampa Bay Rays as an anchor tenant, exemplifies a strategic and forward-thinking approach that promises to enrich our county in ways that are both meaningful and lasting. It is a clear indicator of their dedication to fostering a development that is not just about economic growth, but about creating a legacy that will benefit future generations. As a business owner, I am particularly excited about the opportunities this development brings to our area, from job creation to increased tourism, and the potential for new partnerships and collaborations.

As a board member of the MLK Business District, I am deeply invested in the prosperity and well-being of our local community. I am confident that the Tampa Bay Rays and Hines bring not only the expertise and resources necessary for such a monumental project but also the sensitivity and commitment to engage with and support the local community. Their Team's track record of successful, community-focused projects gives me great hope for what we can achieve together for Pinellas County.

The redevelopment of the Hines Historic Gas Plant site is more than just a construction project; it is a chance to revitalize a historically significant area while fostering economic growth and enhancing community well-being. I firmly believe that supporting this initiative is in the best interest of Pinellas County and its residents. Therefore, I stand with the City of St. Petersburg, the Tampa Bay Rays, and Hines in full support of this groundbreaking project. It is a rare opportunity to redefine the economic and cultural landscape of our city, fostering an environment of prosperity, inclusivity, and community spirit that will indeed make this a grand slam for Pinellas County.

Please consider this letter an expression of my support and enthusiasm for this project. I am eager to see the positive changes it will bring to our community and am ready to offer my support in any way necessary. I implore you to vote in favor of the proposed Rays-Hines redevelopment plan. Together, I believe we can create a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.

Respectfully,

**JOHN P. BARKETT, MAI**

Broker/Owner

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E: [John@BarkettRealty.com](mailto:John@BarkettRealty.com)

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