

May 19, 2026

The Tampa Bay Chamber strongly supports the proposed new stadium and mixed-use development project for the Tampa Bay Rays and believes this investment represents a transformational opportunity for the future of the Tampa Bay region.

The framework outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding reflects a bold vision for a modern, walkable district that integrates Major League Baseball with housing, retail, hospitality, education partnerships, workforce development, parks, public spaces, and infrastructure improvements.

The Chamber is encouraged by the significant private-sector commitment included in the proposal, including the Rays organization's responsibility for all project costs beyond the capped public contribution, including cost overruns, operations, maintenance, and long-term capital obligations.

While the Chamber's support is resounding, it is not unconditional. Any allocation of Community Investment Tax (CIT) revenues must be structured to protect the long-term fiscal capacity of the region, ensuring that existing infrastructure priorities remain fully supported and that future funding flexibility is preserved. It is equally critical that this investment does not compromise commitments to other professional sports and entertainment assets that are integral to Tampa Bay's economy and identity, including the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tampa Bay Lightning, and George M. Steinbrenner Field.

If structured with discipline and executed with excellence, this project has the potential to become a defining regional catalyst—one that accelerates economic growth, strengthens competitiveness, and elevates Tampa Bay's national prominence for decades to come.



Bob Rohrlack, DBA, CCE
President and CEO



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