



June 5, 2026

Hon. Commissioner Chair Hagan
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602

Re: Maintaining a World Class Venue

Dear Honorable Commissioner Chair Hagan:

The Tampa Sports Authority Board commends you on your efforts to secure the Tampa Bay Rays Baseball team in Tampa Bay and we are encouraged that a deal can be reached between the parties that takes into consideration the needs of all our public venues used by our professional franchises.

As part of your efforts to finalize agreements, the TSA Board is hopeful that all of our venues will be considered for funding in your future planning. As you are aware, Benchmark International Arena has recently received significant funding for capital repairs and maintenance, please keep in mind this 29-year-old facility will need funding considerations for future major upgrades. As it relates to our partnership with the New York Yankees, the County also recently provided funding for ongoing capital repairs to Steinbrenner Field, this 30-year-old facility will also require future commitments. The TSA faces this same issue at the 28-year-old Raymond James Stadium (RJS). Under TSA's lease with the Buccaneers, we are obligated to maintain the venue to the standard of other NFL venues of a similar vintage which is a greater requirement than we have in our other professional sports use agreements. Previously, the TSA provided the County with a projected need of over \$500 million in capital repairs to RJS over the remaining life of the term of the extended agreement. These identified dollars do not contemplate any new improvements to the venue, these are just to maintain the facility in its current condition.

It is in all of our best interests to ensure that RJS remains a world-class venue, and we continue to meet all the NFL standards identified within our use agreement. The venue has hosted four Superbowl's, a College Football Playoff Championship, WrestleMania, the Bollywood Awards, and over 50 concerts in its storied history. RJS has become one

of the nation's busiest stadiums for concerts. This is evidenced by the 14 confirmed concerts, two soccer matches, two bowl games, 17 NFL/College football games, two Monster Jams and various other festivals and community events that will be hosted at the venue this year. Ongoing maintenance and future renovations to the venue will be crucial for the Authority to maintain or grow this level of economic activity for our local and regional community. A recent newspaper report indicated that the Buccaneers are looking to complete a reported \$1 billion renovation to the stadium. We encourage you to consider these needs for RJS and the other aging TSA-related venues as you finalize any agreements with the Tampa Bay Rays.

The Board remains grateful for the County's ongoing support of our efforts to effectively maintain the venues, maximize our economic impact on the region and host significant national and international events.

Sincerely,



Patrick Manteiga
Tampa Sports Authority Chair

CC:

Hon. Harry Cohen – District 1, County Commissioner
Hon. Gwen Myers – District 3, County Commissioner
Hon. Christine Miller – District 4, County Commissioner
Hon. Donna Cameron Cepeda – District 5, Countywide, County Commissioner
Hon. Chris Boles – District 6, Countywide, County Commissioner
Hon. Joshua Wostal – District 7, Countywide, County Commissioner
Bonnie Wise, Hillsborough County Administrator
Mayor Jane Castor, City of Tampa
Tampa City Council