



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Selects Development Team for City Council Approval on 94-Unit Affordable Senior Housing Community Honoring Historic Gas Plant District Legacy in St. Petersburg, FL

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (Thursday, July 2, 2026) – The **Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA)**, in partnership with **Atlantic Pacific Companies (A|P)**, and **Ascension Real Estate Partners (AREP)**, today thanked **Mayor Ken Welch** for selecting the development team for City Council Approval on a new 94-unit affordable senior housing community on city-owned property adjacent to the **Historic Gas Plant District**. The selection is part of a wider redevelopment plan.

The development is positioned to advance independently while complementing the city's long-term vision for the surrounding 86-acre Historic Gas Plant redevelopment district. It is designed to integrate with future redevelopment efforts while delivering affordable housing on an accelerated timeline.

The proposed seven-story building will serve seniors with affordable housing needs and include a housing preference for those seniors with documented ties to the Historic Gas Plant District community. It creates an opportunity for former residents and their families to reconnect with a neighborhood that remains central to St. Petersburg's history and historic identity.

“Our mission has always been to provide quality affordable housing and improve the lives of the residents we serve,” said **Neil Brickfield, Executive Director of the Pinellas County Housing Authority**. “This development represents an opportunity to do both. By bringing together strong public and private partners, we can create deeply affordable homes for seniors while honoring the legacy of the Historic Gas Plant community. Affordable housing is about more than providing a place to live—it is about creating stability, preserving community connections, and ensuring that residents can continue to call St. Petersburg home. We are grateful to Mayor Welch, the City of St. Petersburg, and our development partners for their shared commitment to expanding housing opportunities for those who need them most.”

The public-private partnership combines the experience of a public housing authority, a nationally recognized affordable housing developer, and a local development team with extensive experience in community redevelopment.

“The development of the 94 units of senior housing adjacent to the Historic Gas Plant District ensures that residents from the area will continue to enjoy a high quality of life through their golden years and will also serve as a demonstration that St. Petersburg lives up to unfulfilled previous promises to its residents and the community by including them in its visionary plans for the area's future. We are excited to partner with the Pinellas County Housing Authority and Ascension to deliver on those promises,” said **Scott Kriebel, Senior Vice President of Atlantic Pacific Companies**.

The development team will pursue a combination of public and private financing sources, including federal disaster recovery funding established to increase affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents.

"This selection represents an important opportunity to begin delivering on commitments that have been discussed for decades," said **John Barkett, Managing Partner of Ascension Real Estate Partners**. "Our goal is to create high-quality, deeply affordable housing for seniors while honoring the Historic Gas Plant community and working collaboratively with the City, the Community Benefits Advisory Council, neighborhood stakeholders and former residents throughout the development process. We believe this project can provide meaningful results for families much sooner while supporting the broader vision for the Historic Gas Plant District."

While providing affordable housing, the development is expected to activate an underutilized site adjacent to the Pinellas Trail. It will strengthen neighborhood connectivity and create a lasting community asset that honors the legacy of the Historic Gas Plant District. The development team will continue working with the City of St. Petersburg, the Community Benefits Advisory Council, neighborhood organizations, and funding partners as the project advances through design, financing, and permitting.

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About Pinellas County Housing Authority

The Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) is dedicated to providing quality affordable housing and improving the lives of the residents and communities it serves throughout Pinellas County. Established in 1965, PCHA administers housing assistance programs, develops and preserves affordable housing communities, and partners with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to expand housing opportunities for individuals, families, seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities. Today, PCHA manages and supports thousands of affordable housing units across the county while continuing its mission to create stable housing opportunities and strengthen communities. For more information, visit www.pinellashousing.com

About Atlantic Pacific Companies

Atlantic Pacific Companies (A|P) is a fifth-generation, family-owned real estate company with expertise in acquisitions, development, construction, and management of multifamily communities throughout the United States. A|P has over \$5.7 billion of assets under management and employs 700 skilled professionals in Florida, Texas, California,

Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Washington DC. For more information about A|P and its array of real estate services including property management, investment management, development, and construction, visit www.apcompanies.com.

About Ascension Real Estate Partners

Ascension Real Estate Partners (AREP) is a St. Petersburg-based real estate development and investment firm dedicated to creating transformative projects that strengthen neighborhoods, expand housing opportunities, and generate lasting community impact. The firm's work focuses on public-private partnerships, affordable and workforce housing, adaptive reuse, transit-oriented development, and catalytic mixed-use projects that align economic development with community priorities. AREP is committed to delivering high-quality developments that create lasting value while honoring the unique character and history of the communities it serves. For more information, visit www.ascensionrep.com.

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