**PRESS RELEASE**  The New St. Pete Pier

***PIER PROJECT MOVES CLOSER TO REALITY WITH CITY COUNCIL approvals***

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (April 7, 2017) –**

The new St. Petersburg Pier moved one step closer to reality on Thursday, April 6, with three important votes from St. Petersburg City Council.

Council authorized staff to prepare a document for their approval requesting Pinellas county to reallocate $14 million in tax increment financing (TIF funding) for the Pier District, transportation and parking. Specific areas to be funded will be decided following the County’s approval of the amended TIF agreements.

In addition, Council unanimously approved a five-year agreement between the City and Colliers International, the firm that will operate the new Pier District, handling operations, leasing, marketing and maintenance for the new project. Council members voted unanimously on accepting the agreement, paving the way for Colliers and the City to work together on plans to secure restaurants, retailers and other vendors for the Pier.

Also, Council approved a $75,000 agreement between the City and world-renowned artist, Janet Echelman to provide a feasibility study for the installation of one of her unique, colorful, aerial sculptures at the Pier.

Copies of the Pier Enhancement and Pier Operator presentations and a link to a Janet Echelman video are available on the Pier website at: <http://www.newstpetepier.com/docs.php> They are the first three documents on the page.

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