From:	Derek McFarlin
To:	Public Testimony
Subject:	Support for Ordinance No. 240313
Date:	Saturday, March 23, 2024 10:38:23 AM

3/23/2024
Derek McFarlin
Downtown Kansas City Marriott
200 West 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105

Re: Barney Allis Redevelopment

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Downtown Kansas City Marriott, I, Derek McFarlin, urge you to take immediate action on the redevelopment of Barney Allis Plaza, and fully support Ordinance No. 240313.

The conversation about Barney Allis redevelopment has been ongoing for a number of years, but **today we are at a critical juncture**. The city has an incredibly short window to ensure this existing asset is rebuilt before Kansas City is in the international spotlight. On top of the volume of visitors who attend events at the Convention Center, we will host thousands of first-time guests the summer of 2026 for the FIFA World Cup who will spill into downtown and beyond.

Barney Allis Plaza offers visitors a first impression of our city. Re-imagined from its current state into a thriving, arts-focused greenspace, there is tremendous potential for Barney Allis to become an iconic, world-class gathering place, creating a huge draw not only for World Cup fans, but also for convention business and tourism sectors, as well as residents.

Please keep in mind, the garage is vital to best fulfill and accommodate upcoming hotel and tourism commitments for the World Cup, downtown baseball, and the South Loop Project.

Timing is everything. Demolition must begin by May 2024 for the project to be completed in time for the World Cup.

I moved to Kansas City two years now this fall and have been enjoying taking care of our countless guests in the city at the Downtown Kansas City Marriott ever since. I've seen in the relatively short time I've lived here so much positive growth for attractions to our great city. This rebuild is imperative to support more business and leisure revenue to continue.

I recognize that the City Council will be wrestling with difficult budget decisions. However, now more than ever, I encourage the City to prioritize the Barney Allis Redevelopment project.

Sincerely,

Derek James McFarlin