

March 16, 2020

Mayor Lucas, Council Members and City Staff:

As the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts nears its tenth anniversary season, we are writing to you as continued supporters of the economic development associated with downtown Kansas City's vibrant arts and cultural events scene.

While there is little doubt that the sixty-five-year-old Barney Allis Plaza and its Auditorium Plaza Garage is near end of life, ***our concern is the apparent lack of a plan to mitigate the parking, traffic, and economic impact of removing the currently used 740 spaces from the public parking inventory with no suitable plan to replace them during construction.*** We have been informed by City staff and consultants the demolition and construction project could last up to two years.


Moreover, we appear to be removing public parking inventory at a time when event demand is likely to increase. Consider the new Loew's Convention Hotel, which is scheduled for opening on April 1, 2020. Its 460 spaces will almost certainly not meet the added demand for guests and staff when they hold events in their own spaces. However, without a plan to replace the Auditorium Plaza Garage spaces, the remaining parking inventory will simply not meet a fraction of the demand in the area. The challenges become exponentially larger when ballroom events at the hotel and conference center with attendance of 1600 and 1200 occur simultaneously with any of the more than 300 performances held at the Kauffman Center annually.

Prior to funding or approving any demolition or construction project associated with Barney Allis Plaza, we respectfully request of the City's leaders and City staff to:

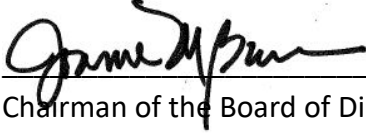
- 1. Complete a thorough parking and traffic impact study prior to closure of 720 spaces at Auditorium Plaza Garage. Identifying the project's impact on cultural events in the community for up to two years.***
- 2. Prepare a thorough and well-conceived mitigation plan (appropriately reviewed and approved by local stakeholders) which limits the disruption to normal business operations for events in a five-block radius of Barney Allis Plaza throughout the two-year process. Specifically, the plan should identify a traffic control plan and replacement parking spaces for those which will be taken offline for the project.***

The Kauffman Center and its three resident art organizations — the Kansas City Symphony, the Kansas City Ballet, and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City — have helped propel the quality of performing arts in our community to levels we never previously would have imagined...and others around the country and around the world have taken notice! We want to ensure the momentum and the welcoming environment we have created for visitors to the downtown corridor grows even stronger in the next ten years. We trust that our elected and appointed municipal leaders wish to avoid taking steps which would quickly eliminate all that we have achieved together.

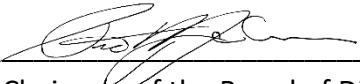
Most Sincerely,



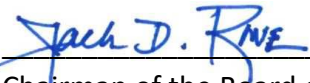
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



Chairman of the Board of Directors, Lyric Opera of Kansas City



Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kansas City Symphony



Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kansas City Ballet