



**Written testimony to the
KCMO Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Committee
In SUPPORT of Barney Allis Garage and Plaza improvements
(Ordinance #201080)**

January 4, 2021

Mayor Lucas and members of the committee, my name is Allen Dillingham. I am the Director of Government Relations for The Builders' Association/Kansas City Chapter, AGC. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in wholehearted support of Ordinance #201080**, which appropriates funds for the design and reconstruction of the parking garage, plaza, and perimeter of Barney Allis Plaza, authorizes the execution of a design-build contract with McCownGordon Construction, and authorizes other related matters.

The Builders' Association/Kansas City Chapter, AGC is headquartered in Kansas City and has offices in Springfield and Jefferson City, along with a 100,000 square foot training center in North Kansas City. Our membership is comprised of over 700 member companies in the commercial building construction industry throughout central and western Missouri. Our members employ approximately 20,000 people in the state.

Barney Allis Plaza (named after a former Kansas City hotelier that helped manage the Muehlebach Hotel to national prominence) has been in need of repair and a makeover for many years. The garage's old Kansas City charm has dulled in recent years with the apparent leaks and general state of disrepair. The plaza area on top (which is not an asset in the KC Parks system, but rather a city-owned asset) has never lived up to its potential as an urban park and events area. Your work today on this ordinance will push KC's downtown forward with rebuilding an important parking structure and also reimagining a design for an urban space that could be very vibrant. With a pandemic upon us and the hotel/convention business in the sink, the timing couldn't be better for a downtown construction project.

Also a part of the ordinance is authorizing the city's Director of General Services to execute a design-build contract with McCownGordon Construction. This construction firm is one of the best in the city. Not only is McCownGordon a terrific construction company to work with, their workmanship is top notch and they have made it a priority from day one to support our KC community in myriad ways. The employee owners of McCownGordon have made Kansas City a better place to live and work through their community service and dedication to our area.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this written testimony in favor of Ordinance #201080. I ask that you pass it out of committee with a Do Pass recommendation to the full council. Thanks for your service to the city.