

National Black Economic Development Institute

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6300 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64113

January 7, 2021

Mayor Quinton Lucas and City Council Members
City of Kansas City, MO
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mayor Lucas and City Council Members:

As an advocate of downtown redevelopment and continued job creation in Kansas City, Missouri. We, at the National Black Economic Development Institute (NBEDI), strongly encourage the City Council to vote yes on Ordinance No. 201080, to redevelop Barney Allis Plaza.

NBEDI is an active member and promoter of development in Kansas City. Now, more than ever, we encourage the City to prioritize the Barney Allis Redevelopment project especially during these challenging times.

NBEDI is highly interested in this project as it will provide job training, trade skill development, employment, and contracting opportunities for the Black community specifically. Through our partnerships with local Black realtors, investors, and the local chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, we have been able to provide development training to several persons seeking to rebuild disinvested areas on Kansas City's east side as well aid their overall goal to participate in real estate development ventures. This project presents that opportunity for mentorship and inclusivity to further the capacity building for Black developers. Encompassing this real estate development mentorship/training component would highly differentiate this project from any other project in the city and create a new model for assisting the development of the urban core while simultaneously reinvesting in our downtown economic center.

To truly make this a transformative project, specifically including three Black Development Mentees would further give developers in the Black Community large-scale development experience and erase a monumental barrier that often inhibits larger Black Community led redevelopment and investment in the urban core. NBEDI is positioned to couple the necessary classroom education with project based learning to bolster this effort. Furthermore, the City has the power to create hundreds of jobs to stimulate the local economy, put people back to work, and build on our strengths. Ultimately, this is a City and community-centered project, led by a design-build team committed to inclusive prosperity and exceeding Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation goals through direct strategic outreach to the subcontractor community.

However, the aforementioned development mentorship/training component is critical to the overarching benefit of this project and must be included if real growth for all communities is ever to be realized. The City, as the owner of the project, has the ability through this public-private-partnership, to implement

such a strategy as a pilot program or through a community benefits agreement. Where public resources are utilized to move this project and others forward, this practice must become the norm and not the exception. NBEDI welcomes the opportunity to work with you and our City Council to benefit all of Kansas City by using this project as a catalyst. By moving this project forward now, the City will help revive the momentum of downtown development and the local economy during our recovery efforts. Reinvesting in the Barney Allis parking garage and plaza also demonstrates your support of our organization, the convention, hotel and tourism industry, and local businesses as they recover from the economic downturn.

As a representative of NBEDI, we urge you to pass Ordinance No. 201080. We offer our continual support in establishing Kansas City as a desirable place to live, work, and enjoy for every community.

Sincerely,

Marvin Lyman

Marvin Lyman, Lead Instructor