



January 22, 2021

Councilwoman Katheryn Shields
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Councilwoman Shields:

As a proponent of downtown and continued job creation in Kansas City, we at Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce (HBCC) strongly urge the City Council to vote yes on Ordinance No. 201080, to continue the progress made on the Barney Allis Redevelopment project.

Along with many prominent organizations, HBCC is an active investor and workforce provider in Kansas City and has been for 17 years. Now, more than ever, we encourage the City to continue to invest in their own success and prioritize the Barney Allis Redevelopment project - even during these challenging times.

There is a great need to help establish black businesses. HBCC strives to provide committed visionary leadership and advocacy for the development of these businesses in the Kansas City area. Through the creation of partnerships, resources, and initiatives, we have supported entrepreneurs, community concerns, and business organizations in developing and growing Black enterprises. Our COVID-19 Recovery Program, (ENCORE) is currently working with businesses affected by the pandemic.

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. Now is the right time to have a shovel-ready project that can showcase iconic events such as the National League of Cities (Fall 2022) and the NFL Draft (Spring 2023). 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.

We understand that the City, along with the rest of the world, is making difficult decisions every day related to the COVID-19 pandemic. By moving this project forward now, the City will be ready to revive the momentum on downtown development and the local economy during recovery efforts. Reinvesting in the Barney Allis parking garage and plaza also demonstrates your support of our business, convention, hotel and tourism industries as they recover from the economic downturn.

As a representative from Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, 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.

Sincerely,

Kim Randolph
CEO/President