

Re: Ordinance No. 201080 to Continue the Barney Allis Redevelopment Project

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

I represent Minority Contractors Association of Greater Kansas City and we urge you to pass Ordinance No. 201080 to continue the Barney Allis Redevelopment project. As you are aware, the underground Auditorium Parking Garage is already partly closed and experiencing end-of-life failure. While costly, temporary repairs have occurred over the past several months it is clear that the best path forward is to start over.

The time is **now** to move forward with demolition and reconstruction for a myriad of reasons. Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to impact the hotel and convention center industry, and 2021 events continue to be cancelled or delayed. By starting during this specific window of time, construction crews can work faster and more efficiently, while inconveniences to Downtown businesses, residents, visitors and the area communities can be minimized. Let's do this while business is slow and avoid disruptions when it picks back up.

Also during this recovery period, the City has the power to create hundreds of jobs to stimulate the local economy, while concurrently preparing for potential federal funding opportunities on the horizon. This is a shovel-ready project.

Furthermore, Kansas City can be ready for the resurgence of events expected in 2022 and beyond. We must be mindful of the visual image Kansas City will showcase to the world during iconic events which are already scheduled - such as the National League of Cities Conference in November 2022 and the NFL Draft in April 2023, both of which will be opportunities to shine a spotlight on our thriving city.

Let's breathe new life into Barney Allis Plaza and prepare for brighter days ahead.

We recognize that the City Council will be wrestling with difficult budget decisions in the upcoming months, particularly due to the events of 2020. However, now more than ever, We encourage the City to prioritize the Barney Allis Redevelopment project, even during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

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