

January 25, 2021

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

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

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Taliaferro & Browne, Inc. Our firm is one of several design firms that will provide design of the replacement of the Barney Allis garage and Plaza. I urge you to pass Ordinance No. 201080 to continue the Barney Allis Redevelopment project.

The following points leads me to support this ordinance:

- Along with many businesses anchored downtown, Taliaferro & Browne, Inc. is an active investor in Downtown Kansas City. We have long supported Downtown as Kansas City's "living room." As such, T&B has been involved in the Downtown Council for years and I have recently been elected to serve as a vice president of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Council. In this regard, I know that the redevelopment of Barney Allis Garage and Plaza is of high interest to the Downtown Council and redevelopment of the garage and plaza is central to the Council's plans for continuing a reinvigoration of Downtown.
- Although we are in the middle of a Covid-19 induced recession, with the coming of vaccines, the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2021 is likely to be a time of coming out from the nearly 2-year darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic. To bring the country out of that economic malaise, the new Biden administration is quite likely to propose an infrastructure program to push monies into the economy and to get people back to work. The proverbial shovel ready projects are likely to be projects that will receive such Federal funding. We need to be ready to take advantage of potential new Federal infrastructure spending.
- In the middle of the previously mentioned Covid-19 induced recession, starting preliminary work on the Barney Allis Garage and the Barney Allis Plaza is a jobs program for many of us in the design community. Preliminary work on the project will allow us to keep some portions of our staff gainfully employed.

I recognize that the City is wrestling with difficult budget decisions given shrinking revenues, but these are but a few of the many reasons that expenditure of resources to get this project started are warranted at this time. Let's get started now with the preliminary work that will allow us to take advantage of potential future Federal funding and prepare for brighter days ahead. I hope that you agree.

Sincerely,



Leonard J. Graham, P.E.
President
TALIAFERRO & BROWNE, INC.