



February 9, 2021

Folly Theater  
P.O. Box 26505  
Kansas City, MO 64196

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

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

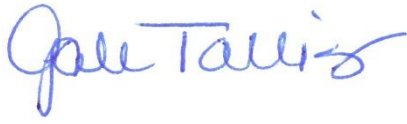
I represent the Folly Theater, Kansas City's most historic theater, located on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> & Central. and we urge you to pass Ordinance No. 201080 to continue the Barney Allis Plaza and Parking Redevelopment project. As you may be aware, the Plaza is an underutilized asset, and the garage is already partly closed due to end-of-life failure. While costly, temporary garage repairs have occurred over the past several months, it is clear that the best path forward is to find a long-term solution for the garage and reimagine the Plaza to be a better asset for the City.

The time is **now** to move forward with demolition and reconstruction for a myriad of reasons.

- The infrastructure of the Barney Allis Plaza Parking is comprised, and parking is at a premium downtown, especially in this area, which is surrounded by hotels, the convention center, the Folly Theater, Kauffman Center and more. This is an opportunity to add parking income.
- This is an opportunity to enliven this side of downtown, bringing more people to the area, to enjoy our restaurants, hotels and theaters (Quality Hill, Kauffman, Music Hall, Midland, T-Mobile Center and the Folly Theater).
- **Timing is everything – take advantage of COVID.** It's a unique opportunity to reconstruct during a period of low demand and minimize disruptions as the hotel and convention industry recovers from the pandemic.
- **Resiliency during recovery.** Let's put people back to work and jump start KC recovery. The City will create over 200 construction jobs and stimulate the local economy, while also preparing for potential federal stimulus funds for shovel-ready projects.
- **Kansas City pride in the spotlight.** Barney Allis Plaza is in the heart of downtown and we must support organizations that are working tirelessly to bring visitors and business to KC. Let's prepare for the spotlight when KC is on a national and international stage for upcoming **confirmed** events, such as the National League of Cities (2022), NFL Draft (2023), and three NCAA Championship events (2022/23 through 2025/26).

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, to prepare for brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gale Tallis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gale" and last name "Tallis" clearly legible.

Gale Tallis  
Executive Director, Folly Theater