



Department of Convention & Entertainment Facilities

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DATE: February 8, 2021
TO: Honorable Mayor Quinton Lucas, Chair
Members of the Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Committee
FROM: Michael C. Young, Deputy Director *Mike Young*
RE: Ordinance No. 201080 to Continue the Barney Allis Redevelopment Project

On behalf of the Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Facilities, we urge you to pass Ordinance No. 201080 to continue the Barney Allis Plaza and Auditorium Parking Garage Redevelopment project.

Now is the time to move forward with demolition and reconstruction for several reasons.

- The parking garage has outlived its useful life and we are running out of time before it will be completely unusable.
- We have a window of opportunity during the pandemic to start this important project.
- In a normal year, the Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Facilities attracts over 700,000 visitors and hosts an average of 285 events annually. Future event bookings are strong, and we are confident a return to normal business will begin once restrictions on gatherings are lifted and it is safe to return to normal operation.
- Our customers need a minimum of 500 parking spaces inside the garage or adjacent to the Convention Center to accommodate our basic event needs. It is important that we are prepared for the future.
- Parking is imperative to Convention Center events, but so is the redevelopment of the plaza. Kansas City has seen tremendous local population growth downtown. With billions of dollars in residential development and over 25k+ residents now living in the downtown area, a centrally located greenspace is essential to downtown. A new plaza would also be frequently utilized by event attendees in need of a space to relax during their breaks.
- Kansas City is determined to be recognized as a top tier city when attracting national conventions. With the development of the airport and a newly attached Loews Convention Center Hotel, we are positioning ourselves to break into that top tier of convention business. Redevelopment of the plaza and parking garage is imperative to our city if we are going to stay on a trajectory of growth for the Kansas City market.

We understand that the City Council will be managing difficult financial decisions in the upcoming budget cycle, however, now more than ever, we encourage City leaders to prioritize the Barney Allis Redevelopment project, even during these difficult times.

MY:kk

cc: Brian Platt, City Manager
Chris Hernandez, Director, City Communications
Earnest Rouse, Acting Director, Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Facilities