



February 5, 2021

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The Honorable Quinton Lucas, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri  
City of Kansas City, Missouri  
414 E 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

[teresa.loar@kcmo.org](mailto:teresa.loar@kcmo.org)

The Honorable Teresa Loar, Vice Chair, Transportation Infrastructure & Operations Committee  
City of Kansas City  
414 E 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

[eric.bunch@kcmo.org](mailto:eric.bunch@kcmo.org)

The Honorable Eric Bunch, Vice Chair, Transportation Infrastructure & Operations Committee  
City of Kansas City  
414 E 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

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

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the Committee:

At its meeting on January 25, 2021, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber) Board of Directors adopted the following position:

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce supports the development of plans for the redevelopment of Barney Allis Plaza and its parking garage and calls upon the City, as part of the next steps in the process, to conduct a review and develop (1) a plan to address deferred maintenance and modernization of City convention facilities and infrastructure and (2) a parking and transportation plan for downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

On behalf of the KC Chamber, I write to encourage the City to move forward with development of plans for the redevelopment of the Barney Allis Plaza and its parking garage.

As the City continues to grow downtown residency, business development and convention business, the KC Chamber believes the Plaza can again be a vital green-space centerpiece and gathering place for our downtown community. However, this project needs care and attention to make sure appropriate and responsible funding mechanisms are employed that do not disadvantage other downtown assets and make sure the project is done in concert with modernization plans for all convention infrastructure including a comprehensive downtown parking and transportation strategy.

The outdated Plaza is an underutilized asset and the garage, with nearly 200 furloughed parking spaces, is a costly money pit for the City to just keep up with chronic temporary repairs and maintenance. The Chamber believes it is time to find a sustainable long-term solution for the garage and to reimagine the Plaza as the civic asset and gathering

space we so need in the heart of our downtown. Only by developing plans for a long-term solution for Barney Allis Plaza can the City accomplish these objectives (objectives that the Chamber strongly supports), and the Chamber strongly urges the City to develop those plans.

Concurrently with the development of plans for the redevelopment of Barney Allis Plaza, the KC Chamber believes it is essential that the City also develop long-range capital plans for convention infrastructure modernization and downtown parking and transportation so that the community will not lose a valuable opportunity to seek potential federal stimulus dollars for shovel-ready projects or miss opportunities to showcase our downtown as we prepare to host the 2023 NFL Draft, National League of Cities Conference and other high-visibility events headed for Kansas City.

The Chamber also believes that, as part of the planning for the future use of Barney Allis Plaza, it is essential that the City plan for future parking and transportation needs in downtown. Only in the context of such planning can the City maximize the efficiency of its use of valuable parking and transportation assets for the benefit of the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your public service to our City and regional community.

Respectfully,

Cathy K Bennett  
Senior Vice President, Public Policy  
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