

-----Original Message-----

From: Matthew Browning [<mailto:matthewbrowning28@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:34 PM

To: Bunch, Eric <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>; Shields, Katheryn <Katheryn.Shields@kcmo.org>

Subject: Katz building:Old Hyde Park Historic District

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> To the City Council and City planners of Kansas City,

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> The Board of Old Hyde Park Historic District supports the proposal to redevelop the Katz building at the corner of Main and Westport. We urge you to pass the required TIF financing for this marquee building and the surrounding new construction to lock in the work that has occurred between the developer and the community.

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> We have been very happy to see that the developer, Lux Living, has listened to the debate about their original proposal and responded. With Historic Kansas City leading the way, the original design was significantly altered to show deference to the Katz building. The developer abandoned an ill conceived tower that tried to mirror the Katz's tower but actually would have diminished the original while competing for visual space. They reduced the massing nearest the Katz and will use neutral colors to give a backdrop to the striking Moderne style of the original building.

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> The iconic Katz building is an essential piece of the fabric of midtown and we fear letting this acceptable development slip by will open the door for demolition and another cookie cutter concrete Goliath and ruin the streetscape along the most intact part of midtown's Main Street. Change is coming, but we don't need to throw the baby out with the bath water. This is the exception that should qualify for extra help from the city. The building has been treading water since CVS left and the whole lot has been underutilized for years. The apartment building, while unusually large indeed, is surrounded by commercial property and would cause no quality of life problems for adjoining residential properties.

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> Again, we urge you to support the financial plan to enable the redevelopment of this property and support the neighborhood and community groups that have spent their time working on it to make it better.

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> Thank you,

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> The Board of Old Hyde Park Historic District.

> Scot Stockton, President

> Deb Robinson, Vice President

> Dianna Atkinson, Treasurer

> Nadja Karpilow, Secretary

> Angie Phillips, Director

> Matthew Browning, Director