From: Megan Wenzl
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Barney Allis Redevelopment
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 10:30:20 AM

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, I urge you to take immediate action on the redevelopment of Barney Allis Plaza, and fully support Ordinance No. 240313.

The conversation about Barney Allis redevelopment has been ongoing for a number of years, but today we are at a critical juncture. The city has an incredibly short window to ensure this existing asset is rebuilt before Kansas City is in the international spotlight. On top of the volume of visitors who attend events at the Convention Center, we will host thousands of first-time guests the summer of 2026 for the FIFA World Cup who will spill into downtown and beyond.

Barney Allis Plaza offers visitors a first impression of our city. Re-imagined from its current state into a thriving, arts-focused greenspace, there is tremendous potential for Barney Allis to become an iconic, world-class gathering place, creating a huge draw not only for World Cup fans, but also for convention business and tourism sectors, as well as residents.

Please keep in mind, the garage is vital to best fulfill and accommodate upcoming hotel and tourism commitments for the World Cup, downtown baseball, and the South Loop Project.

Timing is everything. Demolition must begin by May 2024 for the project to be completed in time for the World Cup.

I recognize that the City Council will be wrestling with difficult budget decisions. However, now more than ever, I encourage the City to prioritize the Barney Allis Redevelopment project.

Sincerely,

Megan Wenzl, Event Services Coordinator/Red Coat
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