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April, 28, 2020

Councilwoman Kathryn Shields
Chair Finance and Governance Committee
City of Kansas City
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Mo.
64106

RE: Barney Allis Plaza

Dear Councilwoman Shields and Committee Members;

On behalf of our ratepayers, residents, tenants and visitors of Downtown Kansas City, I am writing to you today to express our desires to implement safety measures on Barney Allis Plaza. Since its partial shutdown, it has become a hotspot for negative quality of life problems.

Because the lights are no longer functioning on top of the Plaza and on the sidewalks that surround the facility, this block has become a gathering spot for unwanted uses. Recently, our DCID Ambassadors were apprehending an individual that threw a steel rod through the glass door at BOK Finance at 10th and Main. The individual ran to the Barney Allis Garage and hid in the darkened areas of the Plaza and when our security vehicle came close, he threw a large rock at our Ambassador driving the vehicle. Luckily, the rock went through the back window of the driver's side and he was uninjured. The individual then ran into the open garage and hid in the lower levels that we were inaccessible to us because of the danger of falling concrete.

We are asking that the issue of rebuilding Barney Allis Plaza and Garage move forward to a mutually agreeable plan. In the interim, we are asking that the lights be repaired on the Plaza and on all sidewalks surrounding it. Additionally, we are asking that the lower levels and other vertical penetration be blocked off to any use. We believe the first level is secure, well lit and safe. This level can be used by the Marriott and others while this issue moves through the legislative process.

In any event, something must be done. To do nothing only increases the eventual costs and puts our citizens at risk. Please let us know if our organization can be of service to you.

Best regards,


Sean O'Byrne
Executive Director