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March 25, 2024

Re: Barney Allis Redevelopment

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express my strong support for the redevelopment of Barney Allis Plaza.

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 a short window to ensure this existing urban place is rebuilt before Kansas City is in the international spotlight. On top of the volume of downtown and neighboring residents along with 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 expresses traditions, values and a record of ongoing interactions between residents and visitors in an urban place. This space rooted intangible values hosting festivals, traditional and cultural music, dance, performances, and iconic shared community place of memory and present use. Re-imagined from its current state into a thriving, and inclusive cultural 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.

I recognize that the City Council will be wrestling with difficult budget decisions but hope that the City can allocate the necessary funding for the Barney Allis Redevelopment project.

Sincerely,

Pedro Zamora
Executive Director
Hispanic Economic Development Corp (HEDC)