

March 25, 2024

Re: Barney Allis Redevelopment

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of Plaza District Council, we urge you to take immediate action on the redevelopment of Barney Allis Plaza, and fully support Ordinance No. 240313.

I know you will receive many copies of the template so let me just say that I am on board with the contents of that letter and then some. I think of myself as a champion for Kansas City and love to boast about our amazing city and show it off.

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.

As the superintendent of Crossroads Charter Schools located in Downtown Kansas City, I see firsthand the importance of redeveloping Barney Allis Plaza. Our students, families and staff all have a vested interest in the space and understand how critical this redevelopment is to our neighborhood. It is currently an eyesore to the community and is under-utilized. Barney Allis Plaza has the potential to be a beautifully designed and well-functioning space that will enhance not only the lives of the 1000+ students and their families, but also the entire downtown community and visitors to Kansas City.

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,



Tysie McDowell
Superintendent
Crossroads Charter Schools
1011 Central Street
KCMO 64109