



April 13, 2020

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee;

We would like to inform you that International Architects Atelier, a local MBE/WBE architectural firm and prime consultant to the Whiting-Turner Design-Build team, wishes to submit our support for the Barney Allis Plaza Redevelopment Project. International Architects Atelier has been located in Downtown Kansas City since its inception 32 years ago. Our office has always been located just a few blocks away from BAP. Even if our team is not the selected Design-Build team for this project, we will maintain our full support for this project.

Our firm had the opportunity to participate in the 2005 Barney Allis Plaza Garage Renovation and is familiar with the challenges and difficulties facing the garage and plaza above it. It is our professional opinion that the garage and plaza have served their purpose and any additional short-term approaches would be ineffective. It is time for the City to take bold action and proceed with the complete demolition and redesign of this precious urban and civic space.

Re-imagining the Barney Allis Plaza not only makes economic sense, but also provides an opportunity to polish and re-enliven this hidden gem at the heart of our Downtown. We have first-hand experienced the amazing transformation of the Downtown and our neighboring communities over the last decade. It is time this important city block catches up to reflect this growth by becoming the welcoming front yard to our Downtown.

This project was already important to the future of the City, but it is even more crucial now for the well-being of our city. This unprecedented global crisis has proven how critical access to public space is for urban environments. It will be a testament to our city and its residents' resilience and optimism.

This is another unique and important step for the future of Kansas City, and you have the ability and power to shape a better and healthier Downtown for all of us and future generations. We wholeheartedly support this project, and we urge you to pass this ordinance.

Thank you for your dedication to our City and for all of your hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Amirahmadi, AIA
Principal

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