From:	Meg Pawelski
To:	Public Testimony
Subject:	Support for Ordinance No. 240313
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March 25, 2024

Meg Pawelski
National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW)
1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway
Ankeny, IA 50023

Re: Barney Allis Redevelopment

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW) and Kerry Consulting & Events, LLC,
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.

As an Association who has held meetings at the KCCC several times, this Barney Allis Plaza is a complete eyesore and embarrassment to the city of Kansas City. With the money spent on tourism, sporting events and convention business, it baffles me to see the complete disregard to care this plaza has received, especially in such a prominent location in relation to the KCCC and Marriott Downtown Hotel. The decision to revitalize this area will heavily impact our decision to return to Kansas City for future meetings.

We 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,

Meg Pawelski
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Vice President Operations
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