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Kansas City MO, 64108
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February 6, 2022

To All This May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to show the full support of the Kansas City CALL newspaper for the development project that is proposed for the Jazz District by Kelvin Simmons and Leonard Graham.

It is the opinion of the newspaper, which is the oldest business in the District, that the project will have a very positive affect on the District and spur further development in the area.

Most importantly, it is the type of plan that will provide the much needed housing and retail that the District is in desperate need of. This project will create continuous foot traffic and sales tax revenue that will not only benefit of the District, but the City as a whole. This project can only lead to being the shining star that the area is in need of.

It is our humble opinion that to re-issue yet another Request For Proposal, which would be the fifth, would not be of benefit to the District and would prolong development even longer. It is our understanding that the last RFP resulted in two responses of which Mr. Simmons' and Mr. Graham's was the most viable.

I have great respect for Councilpersons Melissa Robinson and Brandon Ellington and their tremendous task of representing an economically depressed area. However, I disagree that the best option available is to send out yet another RFP for that area.

In my 20 year tenure at THE CALL I have watched and reported on many ventures that have involved Mr. Simmons, Swope Community Builders Shops on Blue Parkway and other ventures and Mr. Graham who has a laundry list of projects all over Kansas City I have not known either gentlemen to move in such a manner as to displace Black people whether they were residents or business owners. There appears to be no merit to such a claim in this manner as they would only be the developer of the project at hand and not the entire Jazz District as has been rumored.

It is our desire that their plan moves forward when the Committee meets on Wednesday.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Kind Regards,

Eric L. Wesson Sr.
Managing editor/Publisher
THE CALL