



March 22, 2024

Re: Barney Allis Redevelopment

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

As a representative of the Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Kansas City, I am writing to urge you to take immediate action on the redevelopment of Barney Allis Plaza, and fully support Ordinance No. 240313.

The discussion surrounding the revitalization of Barney Allis Plaza has persisted for several years, and **today we are at a pivotal juncture**. Our city is faced with an incredibly narrow timeframe to ensure the reconstruction of this valuable asset before Kansas City is on a global stage. In addition to the influx of visitors attending events at the convention center, we will host thousands of first-time guests for the FIFA World Cup in 2026 who will occupy downtown and beyond.

Barney Allis Plaza serves as the first impression of our city to many of our visitors. By transforming it into a vibrant, arts-centric green space, we have the opportunity to establish Barney Allis as an iconic, world-class gathering place. Such a transformation would not only captivate World Cup enthusiasts, but also invigorate the convention and tourism business, as well as residents.

It's crucial to emphasize that the parking garage is essential for effectively accommodating future conventions, commitments to the World Cup, as well as downtown baseball, and the South Loop Project.

Time is of the essence. Demolition must commence by May 2024 to ensure the project's completion in time for the World Cup.

The redevelopment of Barney Allis stands as a paramount concern for the hotel industry due to its pivotal role in accommodating convention attendees, as well as leisure visitors, and residents. This redevelopment is essential for maintaining our competitiveness as a destination and furthering economic growth. Without it, we risk losing vital convention business to competing cities who have invested in their convention corridor.

We understand that the City Council faces arduous budgetary decisions. Nonetheless, now more than ever, we urge the City to prioritize the Barney Allis Redevelopment project.

Sincerely,

Andrea O'Hara
Executive Director
Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Kansas City