

Louis Kovitz Jr.
PO Box 516
Freeland, WA 98249

March 22, 2024

Barney Allis Plaza Redevelopment Ordinance 240313

Dear Mayor Lucas and the members of the City Council,

I have received information that you are inviting individuals to comment on the Barney Allis Plaza Redevelopment Project.

I would like to offer some comments on the important significance this project has to downtown Kansas City. As you are undoubtedly aware, Barney Allis was one of the pioneers of promoting the vitalization of the downtown area during his lifetime. He owned the Muehlebach Hotel for thirty-one years until his death in 1962. The Plaza was built some sixty-nine years ago. After his death the Plaza was named after Barney Allis a remembrance of his devotion to Kansas City.

During his tenure at the Muehlebach his efforts, along with other city leaders, transformed downtown Kansas City into a city they were proud of. He lived at the Muehlebach, which overlooks the Plaza and would often gaze at it from the hotel. He started working at a very young age selling newspapers not far from the hotel and the Plaza to help support his family. He continued his life in many businesses and was very successful in them and became a prominent figure in Kansas City. As a young man I remember sitting across from him in his office at the hotel and him explaining to me how important Kansas City was to him. He loved Kansas City and did everything in his power to maintain the culture of the downtown area. I was in Kansas City with my wife in May of 2019 and was very proud to note the Plaza was still there and named after my grandfather. Barney, as he asked me to call him, has been my role model throughout my life. He was respected and loved by the people who worked in the hotel. He was up early every day and would visit the kitchen to mingle with the staff.

I encourage you to proceed with the immediate approval of the renovation of the park and maintain the name of the Barney Allis Plaza in memory of the great man who was so focused on the vitalization of Kansas City.

Respectfully,

Lou Kovitz
Proud Grandson of Barney Allis

