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18TH & VINE IMPROVEMENTS PLAN HITS ONE-YEAR MILESTONE

(KANSAS CITY, Mo.)—One full year since July 16, 2016, when the City Council approved funding for Phase 1 of a larger \$27.6 million, three-phase plan to improve the 18th & Vine Historic District, and allocated \$7 million for Phase 1 projects, Third District Councilmembers Jermaine Reed and Quinton Lucas, together with the City Manager Troy Schulte presented at a news conference today the newly published 18th & Vine Improvements Plan Update and Year-in-Review, a 20-page report that provides highlights on the vision, momentum, and improvements that are part of the 18th & Vine Improvements Plan.

Reed, who also is Chair of the 18th & Vine Development Policy Committee, shared with news conference attendees that 18th & Vine is not just about history and what happened here a long time ago. “It is about opportunity and evolution, and what we are doing right now to ensure a sustainable future. It is about where we are going and our collective vision for how we get there.”

The City and the 18th & Vine Development Policy Committee are currently overseeing multiple projects. City Manager Troy Schulte reported that a considerable amount of work has been completed to date, including on Property Acquisition, Buck O’Neil Education & Research Center, Outdoor Amphitheater – Great Lawn, 18th Street Streetscape & Parking Lot, Historic Stabilization, Leasing Agent Firm Selection, Property Management Firm Selection, and a soon-to-be issued RFQ/P for Architectural Design Services.

“Our promise made to the citizens of Kansas City in 2016 has not changed, and we remain committed to being fiscally responsible with City funds and to transforming 18th & Vine into a multi-use district that appeals to a diverse and intergenerational community,” Schulte said. “We intend to build on the district’s unique and rich history while continuing the momentum of this past year.”

Councilmember Lucas reminded attendees of the legacy of the 18th & Vine District as a “city within a city,” a concentration of businesses in Kansas City that earned the reputation as an unrivaled center of African-American commerce beginning in the late 19th century.

Reed said he expects to continue to gain momentum and anticipates 75 percent of Phase 1 projects, or \$5.2 million of work, to be completed by Spring 2018. “We look forward to advocating for future funding for Phases 2 and 3, and continuing our commitment to the 18th & Vine District,” Reed said.

More information is available at <http://kcmo.gov/18thandvine> and to sign up for project updates. Feedback on what the public wants to do, see, and hear at 18th & Vine can be shared at www.kcmomentum.org.

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