



**COUNTY LEGISLATURE
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI**

JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
415 E. 12th, 2nd Floor
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

**MANUEL ABARCA IV
LEGISLATOR, 1ST DISTRICT**

November 20, 2024

Chairwoman Lauer,

We write to inform you that a majority of the Legislature will not be present at today's legislative meeting. We five have previously collaborated, beyond party lines and geographic boundaries, to prioritize a common direction for the remainder of the \$70.4 million dollars in ARPA funds. This diverse group of Legislature's were successful in passing the only ordinance appropriating the \$70.4 million dollars, and a companion resolution allocating these funds to disadvantaged communities. This consensus did not come easily, and the will of this majority should be considered, by you, as the elected leader of this body.

As Chair, you have not built a consensus, and in fact worked directly with the County Executive to steamroll his priorities, without true engagement with your colleagues. The meeting today is intended to force us to capitulate to the County Executive and pass ARPA Resolution No.21811. Because, according to County Administration, we must pass this resolution today or we will not have time to solicit Request for Proposals and obligate these funds prior to December 31, 2024, and we will be left with no other option but to return the \$70.4 million dollars to the U. S. Treasury Department. But, by ignoring the previously passed ARPA ordinance and resolution, you are losing sight of how these funds are needed to assist municipalities, agencies and many of our long-term service providers, that provide critical help to our citizens. These entities went through a rigorous vetting process by third party evaluators and are counting on these funds. This is an orchestrated crisis created by you and the County Executive's failure to act in a timely fashion. Although we have attempted to negotiate in good faith with the County Executive, an equitable solution to allocate these funds since early 2023 has been unsuccessful. Therefore, we, the undersigned, refuse to participate in today's charade.

We welcome REAL compromise, REAL solutions, and REAL legislative solutions, not the perpetuation of the voices of the executive, trumpeted through the voice of the minority.

Thank you for your help and support,

X *Manuel Abarca IV*

Manuel R. Abarca IV
1st District Legislator

X *Sean Smith*

Sean Smith
6th District Legislator

X *Venessa Huskey*

Venessa Huskey
2nd District Legislator

X *Donna Peyton*

Donna Peyton
2nd District At Large Legislator

X *DaRon McGee*

DaRon McGee
4th District Legislator