



## **COMMISSIONER STEVE AMMONS**

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

Suite 230 Courthouse

716 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd. N.

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Telephone (205) 325-5503

March 23, 2020

Dear Members of the Economic Development Community,

The Covid-19 outbreak has been labeled a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, and it has now arrived in our community. The virus will disrupt every aspect of our collective life for a minimum of 60 days and potentially more. The emergency response actions we take in the days and weeks ahead are of paramount importance to our community's health and our economic durability.

Though we have been grateful to work alongside you to help Birmingham and Jefferson County grow in recent years, our number one priority is now to protect the workers and preserve the businesses who have contributed to that growth. Consequently, we are devoting our full attention to a coordinated strategy on public health and economic stability.

We are going to suspend all economic development activity that is not directly related to Covid-19 until June 1, 2020. We will evaluate our situation on that date, and hopefully resume project-related activity soon thereafter. Although we know this decision will be met with disappointment by many, we feel it is in the best interests of our residents and our economy to fully direct our attention to the crisis at hand.

We appreciate your continued partnership, and we hope you and your families remain safe.

Sincerely,

Steve Ammons  
Jefferson County Commission

Josh Carpenter  
City of Birmingham

CC: Mayor Randall Woodfin  
Jimmie Stephens, President of the Jefferson County Commission  
John Hilliard, Economic Development Chair, Birmingham City Council  
Fred McCallum, CEO, Birmingham Business Alliance