



birminghambusinessalliance
THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

BBA'S SMITH DEPARTING TO START STATEWIDE ETHICS REFORM ORGANIZATION

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Dave Rickey: 205-241-8102 (office); 334-414-1776 (cell)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (July 16, 2010) –Dalton Smith, President of the Birmingham Business Alliance, announced he is leaving his position with the BBA to form a statewide organization aimed at promoting ethics reform in Alabama.

Smith was tasked in April of 2009 with leading the merger of the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Metropolitan Development Board. The merger and the first year of the BBA have been very successful, achieving the formation of a more effective organization while providing real cost efficiencies for the community.

"Dalton has done a wonderful job of leading us through a very successful transition period that has given us the Birmingham Business Alliance," said BBA Chairman Dowd Ritter. "His leadership has guided the establishment of an organization that is doing great things to help spur economic growth in our region. We are putting the finishing touches on our long term strategic plan thanks to Dalton's work, and though we will miss him I know that he is leaving to work on a project he sees as critical to the long term success of our state."

"Dalton did a great job of helping lay the foundation for an organization that is very important to our community," said BBA Board member Johnny Johns. "He is a talented individual with a track record of success and I am confident he will do well in his new venture."

"Working with the board and the team here at BBA has been a phenomenal experience," Smith said. "It has been very encouraging to see the leadership of the business community come together for the good of the region. I have been working on Birmingham issues for the past four years, and I am firmly convinced that the Birmingham region is beginning to see real signs of progress. I think the region will realize tremendous growth in the very near future."

"The Chairman has asked, and I have gladly agreed to be available over the next several months to help as needed," Smith noted. "I am very thankful to the BBA

Board and Executive Committee for allowing me the opportunity to help establish this organization I consider so important to our region's economy."

Smith stated that he is leaving to work on an issue that has been important to him for a number of years. "I helped draft ethics reform legislation back in 2003, and it has remained a primary goal of mine to see this reform become the law of the state," said Smith. "I think a strengthening of our ethics laws is more critical now than ever before, and it has become clear to me that there is an urgent need for a statewide organization that focuses on these issues every day. In order to have meaningful impact on the upcoming legislative session, I believe it is imperative to establish such an organization as soon as possible."

Chairman Ritter has asked Senior Vice-President of Operations, Barry Copeland, to serve as interim President until the Board meets.

#