



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into as of March 31, 2014, by **Birmingham-Southern College** ("Birmingham-Southern"), **Miles College** ("Miles"), **Samford University** ("Samford") **University of Alabama @ Birmingham** ("UAB") and the **City of Birmingham, Alabama** (the "City").

Recitals

It is the intent of the Mayor and the City of Birmingham to create an internationally recognized research Institute in the historic Birmingham Civil Rights District that promotes and seeks to protect human and civil rights; furthermore, seeking to provide, foster, and promote research, educational, and outreach activities that focus on the extension of human and civil rights around the globe, and to study and respond to human and civil rights violations wherever they are found.

Memorandum

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a cooperative and collaborative framework for the Membersto consult, exchange information and assist the City in connection with the creation of the **Freedom Center/Public Policy Institute** which will serve as a permanent gathering place where scholars, educators, and activists may come together and collaborate on initiatives designed to promote and protect human and civil rights in an increasingly complex and globalized landscape. In this capacity, the Institute will integrate existing University, College and community strengths and capacities with the use of innovative technologies and scientific methods to create and foster new research, policy solutions, educational programming, and outreach activities relating to all aspects of human and civil rights ranging from the local to the international. This endeavor will not only add to the successes of the 2013 commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, but it will be integrated into the *50 Years Forward Worldwide* initiative that stemmed from the commemoration activities. Given the historical significance of Birmingham in the struggle for civil rights in the United States and the importance of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, **Freedom Center/Public Policy Institute** will be positioned as the lead partner for Birmingham institutions seeking to foster research, education, and raised awareness of modern

challenges to human and civil rights around the globe. The Institute's focus will be **conflict resolution and reconciliation, research, education, training, and outreach; specifically targeting human rights, poverty and healthcare.**

Specific areas of the Institutes interest include but are not limited to the interface of human and civil rights with: history and justice; public health; the environment; and education. The scope will be both global and "at home" – the U.S., Alabama, and metropolitan Birmingham. The Institute will focus on understanding the nature of institutional and government structures that perpetuate opportunities for insult to human rights, and to pursue the understanding of strategies for diplomacy and organizational change needed to resolve conflict. Public health issues include health disparities, civil rights under periods of quarantine, and the acceptability of measures to fight communicable diseases. Environmental concerns focus on such issues as the welfare of human populations relating to sustainability and the management of natural resources, as well as environmental justice. Institute faculty affiliates interested in these substantive areas will be recruited from across the campuses of Miles, Samford, Birmingham-Southern and UAB; including departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, Engineering, Health Professions, Education, and Business. The Institute will publish "white papers" written by faculty affiliates to serve as policy recommendations aimed at overcoming human rights issues wherever they are found.

Educational programs could encompass academic programming, summer programming, colloquia, lectures, conferences, and commemorations geared to educating our campus and the community about human and civil rights issues. Additionally, a new undergraduate interdisciplinary minor in Human and Civil Rights is already in the planning phases. This academic minor is a step to producing graduates focused in the field, creating experiential learning opportunities through internships with Institute partners, and fostering study-away experiences around the globe. Also, the already established Birmingham Area Consortium for Higher Education will promote cross-institutional participation by both faculty and students for all our regional academic partners.

A key area of Institute activities will involve designing and delivering to business, industry, and government, training programs relating to human and civil rights such as diversity awareness, sexual harassment prevention, effective communication in the workplace, etc. Over the past decade, it has become standard practice for major corporations in all sectors of the economy to develop a "business case" for diversity training. The Institute will provide best practice, evidence-based training for corporate partners that will be available to employees either in-person or online.

The Institute will support the College of Arts and Sciences and Miles, Samford, Birmingham-Southern and UAB's goal of becoming leading international research universities and colleges and academic health Institute engaged in discovery, education, and the application of knowledge to the benefit of Birmingham, the State of Alabama, and beyond. As such, the Institute for Human Rights will serve a major role in helping

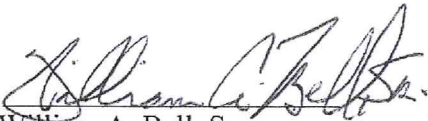
both the Colleges and the Universities achieve their strategic plans. Specifically, the Institute will partner with local, national, and international initiatives and activities involving human and civil rights, as well as provide a framework for faculty members, students, and community activists that:

- Inspires new scholarship, discovery, and knowledge;
- Attracts world-class scholars, researchers, and students passionate about human and civil rights issues;
- Enhances experiential learning opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students;
- Provides a location where scholars and practitioners may collaborate to identify problems and develop solutions;
- Increases the level of academic engagement in both the teaching of, and in learning about, human and civil rights;
- Identifies and nurtures future leaders in the field; and
- Leverages existing research, scholarship, and teaching to provide improved workplace environments, economic development opportunities through the creation of possible human resource-based start-up companies, and philanthropic sponsorship of Institute-related activities


This Memorandum of Understanding may not be assigned or amended by any party without the written consent of the other parties. This Memorandum of Understanding is not meant to constitute a legal binding obligation on any party, confer any rights, or supersede any applicable laws. This Memorandum shall be governed by Alabama law and may not be executed in counterparts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date set forth above.

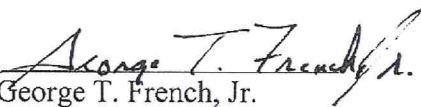
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM,
ALABAMA

By: 
William A. Bell, Sr.
Mayor

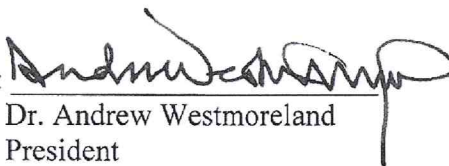
BIRMINGHAM- SOUTHERN COLLEGE

By: 
General Charles C. Krulak
President

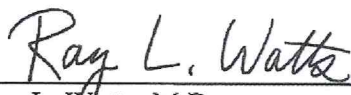
MILES COLLEGE

By: 
George T. French, Jr.
President

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

By: 
Dr. Andrew Westmoreland
President

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA,
BIRMINGHAM

By: 
Ray L. Watts, M.D.
President

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO
Memorandum of Understanding – Freedom Center**

THIS FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE FREEDOM CENTER & PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE (this “Amendment”) is made this the 22nd day of April, 2015, by and between the **CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**, a municipal corporation (the “City”), and **BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE** (“Birmingham-Southern”), **MILES COLLEGE** (“Miles”), **SAMFORD UNIVERSITY** (“Samford”), **UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM** (“UAB”), and **UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO** (“Montevallo”).

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, the City and Birmingham-Southern, Miles, Samford, and UAB have entered into an Agreement outlined in a MOU dated March 31, 2014, under which the institutions agree to assist the City in establishing a collaborative framework for the development of the Freedom Center; and,

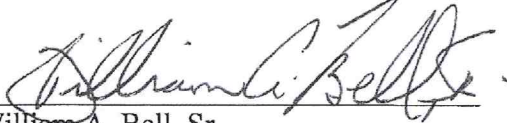
WHEREAS, the City and Birmingham-Southern, Miles, Samford, and UAB desire to modify and amend the MOU as set forth in this Amendment to include Montevallo in the specified collaborative efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the respective agreements, promises, representations and warranties of the parties hereto, and for the consideration described in the MOU and other good and valuable consideration, the parties agree to amend the MOU to add Montevallo as a party. All references in the MOU to the Members or parties, and all instances in which the educational institutions are all listed shall be deemed to include Montevallo.

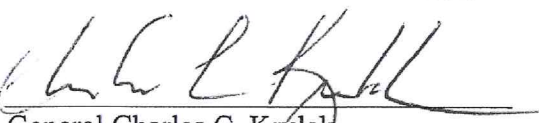
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party has caused this Amendment to be executed in its name

and on its behalf by its duly authorized officer thereto as of the date set forth above.

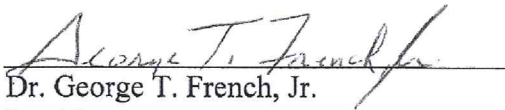
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

By: 
William A. Bell, Sr.
Mayor

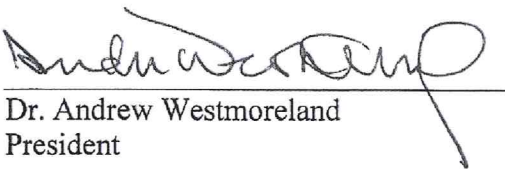
BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE

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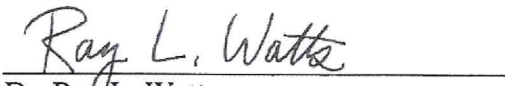
MILES COLLEGE

By: 
Dr. George T. French, Jr.
President

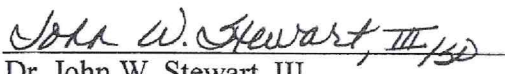
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

By: 
Dr. Andrew Westmoreland
President

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA at BIRMINGHAM

By: 
Dr. Ray L. Watts
President

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO

By: 
Dr. John W. Stewart, III
President

UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Knowledge that will change your world

Ray L. Watts, MD
President

December 16, 2014

Office of the Mayor
The Honorable William A. Bell
808 18th St. N.
Birmingham, AL 35203

Dear Mayor Bell,

It is with enthusiasm that we lend our support to the planned Freedom Center, which will serve as a nexus for Civil Rights tourism, research, education, and historical preservation for the City of Birmingham.

As you know, the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System approved the development of a new Institute for Human Rights (IHR) here at UAB, and the College of Arts and Sciences is already in the process of developing curriculum and other program offerings. We have also launched an international search for a Founding Director of the IHR. Like the City's Freedom Center, we expect the IHR to be a place for national and international symposia where thought leaders, scholars in residence, and others can collaborate in shaping programs and writing grant proposals to enhance the study of human rights in our area.

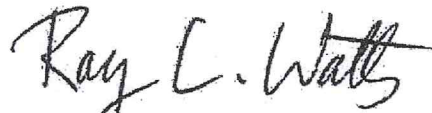
We know that the Freedom Center will be an important partner in these efforts, and will help garner worldwide attention to the City as the locus for the advancement of Civil Rights in America. A vision to designate Birmingham's remarkable Civil Rights landmarks as a National Park, and United Nations World Heritage Site, would be an accomplishment and would benefit our shared work to support human rights education and awareness.

We look forward to future discussions with you and your staff about plans for the Freedom Center.

Congratulations and best wishes,



Robert E. Palazzo, PhD
Dean, UAB College of Arts & Sciences



Ray L. Watts, MD
President, UAB

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.
MAYOR

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Robert Bentley
Governor of Alabama
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Bentley,

First, I'd like to thank you for your support of our 50 Years Forward campaign, as well as your continued support in moving Birmingham forward. It is through your initial investment in the Alabama Department of Tourism that our City has gained regional, national and international recognition over the past few years. We are truly grateful for your leadership. Second, I'd like to respectfully request \$1 million from the State of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Transportation to support the infrastructure improvements required to upgrade the sidewalks and accessibility, including lighting and landscaping for the block located between 5th and 6th Avenue North 16th and 15th Street North.

As previously discussed, The City of Birmingham has been working with the Department of Interior and the Park Service to obtain the designation of World Heritage site for its historic Civil Rights sites and trails including the Civil Rights Institute, 16th Street Baptist Church, and the historic Bethel Baptist Church.

In order to continue our efforts, we are expanding the Civil Rights District to include the new Freedom Center, which will be located adjacent to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the A.G. Gaston Motel, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. met with other civil rights leaders. This will allow us to enrich our Civil Rights District and create a public policy institute that will foster positive learning and collaboration, where the minds of generations come together for a better world. The Freedom Center will include new archives for the Institute, a multi-media center, classrooms for learning/collaboration and a park, which will feature a memorial for the civil rights heroes. The total cost of the project is \$10 million.

I look forward to working with you on this project. Through partnership of local, state and federal support, this dream can and will become a reality.

Best Regards,


Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.

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