

**10-R-0929**

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S)

AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATE HONOR BEFITTING MR. JOHN PORTMAN AND MR. HERMAN J. RUSSELL IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**ADOPTED BY**

JUN 07 2010

**AS AMENDED COUNCIL**

- CONSENT REFER
- REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ADVERTISE & REFER
- 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred 5/17/10

Referred To: COC

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

First Reading

Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred To \_\_\_\_\_

COC Committee

6/17/10 Date

[Signature] Chair

[Signature] Action

[Signature] Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

[Signature] Other

[Signature] Members

[Signature] Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

- FINAL COUNCIL ACTION
- 2nd
  - 1st & 2nd
  - 3rd
  - Consent
  - V Vote
  - RC Vote

CERTIFIED

**CERTIFIED**  
 JUN 07 2010

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

[Signature]

**CERTIFIED**  
 JUN 07 2010

[Signature]  
 MUNICIPAL CLERK

MAYOR'S ACTION

**APPROVED**  
 JUN 15 2010  
[Signature]  
 MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

10-R-0929

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCILMEMBER(S)

**AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATE HONOR BEFITTING MR. JOHN PORTMAN AND MR. HERMAN J. RUSSELL IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell grew up in the Summerhill section of Atlanta, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, he learned early the virtues of hard work and saving money from his father a plaster; and

**WHEREAS**, John Portman is a native son of Atlanta who has lived, attended school through college and worked in the city his entire life; For a brief period during World War II during which he served in the United States Navy; and

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell quickly gained a reputation for producing high quality work and was thus able to compete successfully against competitors and ranked as one of the largest minority Industrial/Service companies in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, John Portman, has taken his organization and his associates all over the world, his major interest has been the welfare of his home, Atlanta. His interest in and commitment to the health and growth of Atlanta is exemplified by the development of Peachtree Center which covers 14 blocks of Atlanta's Central Business District and which he developed entirely with private funds with no public financial assistance. It was begun with the opening of the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962 and its development has spanned the last fifty years with the most current building opening just two years ago.

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell's most significant evidence of his corporate portfolio can be seen in his hometown of Atlanta and includes work with major Fortune 500 companies such as Georgia Pacific, Delta Airlines, The Coca-Cola Company as well as Turner Field and the Georgia World Congress Center; The Russell legacy is permanently etched into the city's landscape as a partner in building the Atlanta City Hall Complex, the Georgia Dome, the Carter Presidential Center and Phillips Sports Arena; and

**WHEREAS**, John Portman was a founding member of Action Forum, a small but very influential bi-racial group of behind-the-scenes business leaders who helped establish Atlanta as a role model for racial integration in the 1960's; and

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell became the first African American member, and later President of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce focused on his motto of "strengthening America's foundation"; and

**WHEREAS**, John Portman served as the Danish Counsel and was a founding member of the Atlanta World Trade Club, contributing to Atlanta's recognition as a truly international city; and

*Handwritten signatures and notes:*  
Garett M. Shearer  
C. M. ...  
C. ...  
K. ...  
J. ...  
A. ...



**WHEREAS**, the citizens and the City of Atlanta would greatly benefit from an honor being bestowed upon these two important figures of Atlanta history.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA** as follows:

**SECTION 1:** That a joint commission comprising of thirteen (13) individuals be impaneled to determine and recommend an appropriate individual honor for Mr. Herman J. Russell and Mr. John Portman in the City of Atlanta.

**SECTION 2:** The members of the joint commission shall be appointed by the following individuals or organizations, shall be residents of the City of Atlanta and shall require City Council confirmation:

- a. Two members appointed by the Mayor
- b. Two members appointed by the President of Council
- c. Two member appointed by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
- d. Two member appointed by Central Atlanta Progress
- e. One member appointed by Atlanta Business League
- f. One member appointed by Atlanta Conventions and Visitors Bureau
- g. One member appointed by Butler Street YMCA
- h. One member appointed by Atlanta Committee for Progress
- i. One member appointed by National Black MBA – Atlanta Chapter

**SECTION 3:** Upon the adoption and approval of this joint resolution, the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to contact the individuals and organizations listed above requesting that they submit the names of their appointees along with a copy of each person's resume no later than July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**SECTION 4:** All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

A true copy,

*Rhonda Daughin Johnson*  
Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED as amended by the Council  
APPROVED by Mayor Kasim Reed

JUN 07, 2010  
JUN 15, 2010



## John C. Portman, Jr.

The leadership and accomplishments of John Portman have been important factors in Atlanta's growth from a gracious southern American city to the status it now enjoys as one of the world's important dynamic international centers. Combining the role of architect and developer, John Portman has made major contributions to the skyline and development of not only Atlanta, but to other urban centers throughout the United States and the world such as New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Singapore, Shanghai, and Brussels, to name a few.

John Portman is a true native son of Atlanta and except for the time he spent in the navy during World War II, he has lived and worked in Atlanta his entire life. He is a product of the Atlanta public school system and he earned his architecture degree from Georgia Tech in 1950. He worked for the required three years as an apprentice architect for the Atlanta firm of Stevens and Wilkerson and upon receiving his architectural registration in 1953, he opened his own firm.

John Portman is a life-long student of philosophy and he has been influenced particularly by the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and others on self reliance. He pioneered the concept of architect as developer and his success at combining these two roles has become a model that others have studied and sought to emulate.

John Portman enjoys an international reputation for excellence in architecture, urban design and real estate development and his work has been extensively studied and become the subject of many articles and books. The Atlanta High Museum of Art has on display an exhibition titled "John Portman, Art & Architecture" in recognition of his internationally acclaimed excellence not only in architecture and urban planning, but his work as an accomplished painter, sculptor and furniture designer that recognizes the extensive abilities of this unusually talented man.

Even though their work has taken John Portman and his associates all over the world, his major interest has been the welfare of his home, Atlanta. His interest in and commitment to the health and growth of Atlanta is exemplified by the development of Peachtree Center which covers 14 blocks of Atlanta's Central Business District and which he developed entirely with private funds with no public financial assistance. It was begun with the opening of the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962 and its development has spanned the last fifty years with the most current building opening just two years ago. Peachtree Center was a major factor in preventing the abandonment of the City Center by the business community as occurred in many other American cities. It includes many of the city's landmark buildings such as the Westin Peachtree Plaza, the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, the SunTrust Plaza and the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. The Hyatt's first phase was completed in 1967 and its design, with its trend-setting 22-storey atrium, made architectural history and brought much acclaim not only to John Portman and the Hyatt Hotel Company, but attention and recognition to Atlanta.

The opening of the Atlanta Merchandise Mart by John Portman was the catalyst that set off the rapid development of the Atlanta convention and tourist business that has been a major factor in the economic growth of the city. Today, AmericasMart, formerly the Atlanta Merchandise Mart, attracts over half a million visitors to Atlanta each year making it a major contributor to the tourist, hospitality and restaurant business in the city.

As a founding member of Action Forum, John Portman was one of a small bi-racial group of business leaders who worked behind the scenes to help Atlanta become a role



model for racial integration in the 1960's. He was the first to open non-segregated restaurants in the city when he completed the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962 which contained two up-scale public restaurants. His commitment to fairness and equal opportunity has been recognized by various organizations who presented him with such awards as the "Distinguished Community Service Award" from the Urban League, the "Martin Luther King Salute to Greatness Award", the "Torch of Liberty Award" from the Anti-Defamation League and others.

John Portman has been an active participant in civic affairs. He served as President of Central Atlanta Progress from 1969 through 1971 during which time he led the city's first comprehensive study for downtown Atlanta. He was an active champion for the construction of the city's rapid rail system in the 1970's, and he campaigned to keep the international airport close to the Central Business District. He was the initiator of the concept for the Georgia Worlds Congress Center to bolster Atlanta's growing convention industry and he served several terms as an officer and director of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

When John Portman opened the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962, he publicly declared that Atlanta was going to be a great international city, and he has been an active participant in the activities that have made this happen. He along with Sam Ayoub of Coca-Cola and then Governor George Busby founded the World Trade Club in 1982. In 1967, he was appointed the Honorary Counsel of Denmark in which capacity he served for 30 years. His efforts have been recognized by both local and international communities and he has been awarded the "Shaping of the City Award" by the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, the "International Business Award" by the Business Chronicle and he was one of the original inductees into the "Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau Hospitality Hall of Fame".

John Portman's companies have offices in China, Korea and India, but his main office is in Atlanta and it is from there that he directs his national and international business. He and his associates are constant boosters of Atlanta, and their success has brought credit to Atlanta. In addition, his efforts within the City have helped its growth, shaped its appearance, improved its economic viability, and brought change and improvements to the community of which he is justifiably proud. John and his lovely wife, Jan, continue their generous support to the cultural, educational, medical and humanitarian outreach community of Atlanta. He, his sons, and his associates are committed to continuing the efforts he has made over the years to bring recognition, strength and continued growth to the city.



## *Biographical Summary for Herman J. Russell*

From his purchase of a small parcel of land at age 16 in 1946 to an entrepreneurial legacy with the construction of his \$300 million dollar mixed-use complex in downtown Atlanta in 2003, business entrepreneur, civic leader and philanthropist **Herman J. Russell** is a man focused on his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary motto of “strengthening America’s foundation”.

A native of Atlanta, Herman J. Russell was an accomplished tradesman by the age of 12 having learned the plastering business from his father, Rogers Russell. He built a duplex on the parcel of land he purchased for \$125 at age 16 and used his savings to help pay his tuition at Tuskegee University. Returning to Atlanta after college, he worked alongside his father taking over the company in 1952. Today, the H. J. Russell & Company is a diversified organization that has expanded into the areas of construction, construction management, real estate development and property management. In addition, Mr. Russell’s business interests have also expanded to include Concessions International, LLC with food and beverage units in seven major airports and partnership in the new upscale Paschal’s restaurant, which is a cornerstone in his Castelberry Hill development project intended to revitalize the southwest edge of downtown Atlanta.

Since his beginning during the turbulent years of the early civil rights movement, Herman J. Russell has built one of the greatest success stories in America and is a role model for African-American entrepreneurship. The H. J. Russell & Company is ranked as the fourth largest minority Industrial/Service company in the United States. He has left a lasting impression on the communities in which he has worked with some of the nation’s most celebrated skylines bearing his imprint. The most significant evidence of his corporate portfolio can be seen in his hometown of Atlanta and includes work with major Fortune 500 companies such as Georgia Pacific, Delta Airlines and The Coca-Cola Company as well as Turner Field and the Georgia World Congress Center. In addition, the Russell legacy is permanently etched into the city’s landscape as a partner in building the Atlanta City Hall Complex, the Georgia DOME, the Carter Presidential Center and Phillips Sports Arena. His namesake company also currently manages over 10,000 apartment units and condominiums. His real estate development interests span cities across the United States and focuses on the revitalization of local municipalities into strong mixed-income communities. In all, Herman Russell’s enterprises generate revenues of over \$300 million dollars; ensure jobs for 2500 employees, and affordable homes for thousands of people.

A quiet, but influential civic leader, Russell worked very closely with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960’s. He became the first black member, and later president, of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. He has served as a board member for civic organizations like the Allen Temple AME Church; Butler Street YMCA; Tuskegee University and the Georgia State University Advisory Board. In addition, he has formerly served on the Boards of Georgia Power Company, Wachovia Bank, Georgia Ports Authority, National Service Industries, Citizens Trust Bank and Central Atlanta Progress.

Mr. Russell is also a philanthropist who generously gives back to his community. He strongly believes that the youth of today need strong positive role models and mentors. To that end, he founded the Herman J. Russell Foundation, Inc., which is focused on stimulating the self-sufficiency of youth and the communities in which they live.

Over the course of his career, Herman J. Russell has received many awards and honors, including: the Dow Jones Entrepreneurial Excellence Award; The Atlanta Business Hall of Fame Award; Georgia State University Hall of Fame; Horatio Alger Award; both the National and Georgia Black MBA Association Inc.’s Entrepreneur of the Year Awards; and the 2001 Entrepreneur of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award by Ernst & Young. Mr. Russell is the recipient of honorary degrees from Morehouse College, Georgia State University and Morris Brown College.

Mr. Russell resides in Atlanta. He and his late wife of over 40 years, Otelia Hackney Russell, are the parents of two sons, H. Jerome Russell and Michael, and one daughter, Donata Russell Major who are executives in the Russell companies.

RCS# 296  
6/07/10  
3:50 PM

Atlanta City Council

REGULAR SESSION

10-R-0929

AUTH.CREATE OF JOINT COMM.TO HONOR JOHN  
PORTMAN AND HERMAN J.RUSSELL  
ADOPT AS AMEND

YEAS: 14  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
NOT VOTING: 1  
EXCUSED: 1  
ABSENT 0

|           |             |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Y Smith   | E Archibong | Y Moore   | Y Bond      |
| Y Hall    | Y Wan       | Y Martin  | Y Watson    |
| Y Young   | Y Shook     | Y Bottoms | Y Willis    |
| Y Winslow | Y Adrean    | Y Sheperd | NV Mitchell |

10-R-0929

AMENDMENT FORM

COMMITTEE: COMMITTEE ON COUNCIL

PAGE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATION I.D.#: \_\_\_\_\_

CAPTION:  YES  NO

ORDINANCE I.D.#: \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION(S): Add Sponsors

RESOLUTION I.D.#: 10-R-0929

PARAGRAPH(S): \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: June 7, 2010

Amend to add Council members Alex Wan and Joyce Sheperd as sponsors.

\* Council members names were added to the caption on the agenda. Council members also signed legislation

mg  
F/m



**WHEREAS**, the citizens and the City of Atlanta would greatly benefit from an honor being bestowed upon these two important figures of Atlanta history.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA** as follows:

**SECTION 1:** That a joint commission comprising of thirteen (13) individuals be impaneled to determine and recommend an appropriate individual honor for Mr. Herman J. Russell and Mr. John Portman in the City of Atlanta.

**SECTION 2:** The members of the joint commission shall be appointed by the following individuals or organizations, shall be residents of the City of Atlanta and shall require City Council confirmation:

- a. Two members appointed by the Mayor
- b. Two members appointed by the President of Council
- c. Two member appointed by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
- d. Two member appointed by Central Atlanta Progress
- e. One member appointed by Atlanta Business League
- f. One member appointed by Atlanta Conventions and Visitors Bureau
- g. One member appointed by Butler Street YMCA
- h. One member appointed by Atlanta Committee for Progress
- i. One member appointed by National Black MBA – Atlanta Chapter

**SECTION 3:** Upon the adoption and approval of this joint resolution, the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to contact the individuals and organizations listed above requesting that they submit the names of their appointees along with a copy of each person's resume no later than July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**SECTION 4:** All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.