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Central Atlanta Progress
Atlanta Downtown Improvement District

October 21, 2010

Rhonda Dauphin Johnson
Municipal Clerk
City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Suite 2700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to join the joint commission to determine an appropriate honor for Mr. Herman J. Russell and Mr. John Portman. I have known both men for many years and deeply honored to serve on the joint commission.

I would like to designate myself, A.J. Robinson to represent Central Atlanta Progress (CAP) on the commission. For your convenience, I have included my contact information below:

Mr. A.J. Robinson
President
Central Atlanta Progress
50 Hurt Plaza – Suite#110
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 658-1980
email: aj@atlantadowntown.com

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to serve and honor two outstanding visionaries.

Sincerely,

A.J. Robinson
President

A.J. Robinson

President, Central Atlanta Progress and
the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District

A.J. Robinson is President of Central Atlanta Progress (CAP) and the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District (ADID). CAP, a private business association started in 1941, remains one of the most effective advocacy organizations in the city. CAP has created and spun off a number of organizations such as Trees Atlanta, Research Atlanta, COPA, Inc. and the Midtown Alliance. In 1995, CAP created the ADID and the Ambassador Force® of downtown to address public safety and cleaning concerns.

In his role, he manages the overall strategic functions of the organizations which are designed to make the Atlanta community and specifically Downtown, more livable, vital and diverse. Key initiatives focus on economic development, planning, public safety, sidewalk environment, transportation, events and overall marketing of Downtown Atlanta. CAP is funded through membership dues and grants from many of Atlanta's major corporations, as well as organizations and foundations committed to the development of downtown.

Robinson has guided the organizations in accomplishments that include the passage of public space vending legislation, the creation of a City wide anti-panhandling program, the continuing revitalization of Woodruff Park, securing more than $80 million in New Market Tax Credits for Downtown projects in partnership with the Atlanta Development Authority, the successful passage of new legislation involving tax allocation districts Statewide, and the creation of the Atlanta Dream, a WNBA team. In addition, he has directed the private side of a public/private partnership with Mayor Shirley Franklin to advance the building of the Center for Civil and Human Rights, commissioned the development of the "Green Line"(an aspirational plan for the future growth of the real estate corridor between the State Capitol and the Georgia World Congress Center), and the creation of a permanent tribute to former U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young.

The former President of Portman Holdings, he was responsible for all activities of this multi-dimensional real estate company with offices in Atlanta, Charlotte, Shanghai and Warsaw. During his 22-year career with Portman, he managed all aspects of real estate development process, including identification of new opportunities, securing financing, design, construction, marketing, acquisition, property management, and asset management. Various projects included property and asset management of SunTrust Plaza, a $400 million multi-use urban development in the heart of downtown Atlanta. Other assets included the AmericasMart, Atlanta Decorative Arts Center, Westin Charlotte, Westin Warsaw and Shanghai Centre.

He had primary responsibility for development of Shanghai Centre, a US$200 million multi-use facility in downtown Shanghai, when completed in 1990 was one of the largest foreign investment projects in the People's Republic of China (PRC). In his over 20-year career with Portman, he worked on projects in China, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Egypt, Israel, Austria, Brazil, India, Poland, Russia, Hong Kong, South Africa, the United Kingdom and most major US cities.

From June 1980 to January 1981, he participated in the U.S. Department of Commerce's historic creation of China's first business school under the protocol signed by President Jimmy Carter and the Chinese Department of Education. During that time, he researched, wrote and taught case studies in Dalian, China, and traveled extensively throughout the Chinese cities.

A 1980 graduate of Harvard School of Business, he received a Master's Degree in Business Administration. With high distinction, he received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in June 1977 from Emory University.

A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, he is married to Dr. Nicole Ellerine, a pediatrician, and they reside in Atlanta with their small children Micaela, Ethan and Nathaniel.

He has traveled extensively in the U.S. and internationally. His special interests include American history, politics and sports. He was chosen as one of ten Outstanding Young Atlantans in 1986, was a member of the 1991-92 Leadership Atlanta Class, and has published articles in The Wall Street Journal, Asian Wall Street Journal, Harvard Business Review, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Atlanta Business Chronicle and National Real Estate Investor. His other recognition includes being chosen as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend Magazine from 2004 - 2010; one of Atlanta's Top 40 Power Players by Atlanta Magazine and one of the Most Influential Atlantans by the Atlanta Business Chronicle seven years in a row since 2004.

His business and civic interest have included, among others, the following positions: Board of Directors, America'sMart, Inc, American Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. Southeast Region, Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, Greenfield Hebrew Academy, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Regional Business Coalition, The Breman Heritage Museum; Member, Rotary Club of Atlanta.