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Birmingham Talks Establishes Inaugural Advisory Board to Advance Early Literacy Initiatives

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Birmingham Talks, a local nonprofit dedicated to building lifetime literacy skills for children aged 5 and under, announced the formation of a new Advisory Board, comprised of some of Birmingham’s top leaders from across industries. The Birmingham Talks Advisory Board will provide support to the organization as it continues to expand its programs and presence throughout Jefferson County.

Since its inception in 2019, Birmingham Talks has served more than 2,000 families and children through its signature early literacy programs. Responding to the needs of the community, the internal staff has grown from a nimble initial trio to a dedicated team of eight. Birmingham Talks recently secured a historic \$1M endorsement from the City of Birmingham, a tangible validation of the remarkable impact the organization is having on our city and our children's futures. The newly-formed Advisory Board will help inform the organization's ongoing strategy and growth, ensuring tight alignment with the needs and priorities of the local community.

Members of the Birmingham Talks Advisory Board represent a wide range of communities, industries, and talents across Birmingham. Members include:

Bryan Billy, Teach for America, Board co-chair
Marvelouse Guerrier, Birmingham Southern College, Board co-chair
John Beatty, The Welch Group
David Dada, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Kristen Garrett, Southern Research
Casey Hinton, Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation
Marquis Hollingsworth, City of Birmingham
Estes Hughes, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama
Erica Jones, Birmingham City Schools
Sydni Jordan, Progressive Insurance
Jasmine Kemp, Realtor
Karla Khodanian, Birmingham Business Alliance
Erica Littleton, Learning Little People
Margaret Lee, Harmony Venture Labs
Sarah Moss, Regions Bank
Wilson Nash, Brasfield & Gorrie
Samantha Nelms, Elevate Birmingham
Sophanie Occean, Protective Life



Denzel Okinedo, Burr Forman
Hiren Patel, Southern Company
Rachel Phillips, i3 Academy
Ruth Serven Smith, AL.com
Estela Tirado, Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
Gabe Tucker, Fortif Law
Leticia Watkins, Sixth Avenue Baptist Church
Amber Whitfield, United Way of Central Alabama
Carolyn Williams, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama

“The formation of our Advisory Board marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the evolution of Birmingham Talks. This expert group will enable us to extend our reach and strengthen our connections across the community. With this new board's collective commitment and expertise, we're poised to bring the joy and power of literacy to even more children in Jefferson County,” said Ruth Ann Moss, Executive Director of Birmingham Talks.

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About Birmingham Talks

Birmingham Talks supports the future stability and prosperity of our city by focusing on our most precious resource—our children. The organization’s innovative programs use cutting-edge technology and personalized coaching to increase interactive talk between babies and their caregivers—ensuring all the children in our community are prepared for both kindergarten and a life of economic mobility. Research shows that the earliest support helping kids develop language skills can have the most positive and cost-effective lifelong impact. Together, we’re ensuring that Birmingham can become the best city in America to raise a child under five. To learn more visit www.bhmtalks.org.