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Sam Jones for Mayor!

Letter to the Editor:

It was my hope and strongest desire to stay out of the mayor's race. I have a burning desire to help our new mayor in every way that I can to continue our region's economic development, jobs and investment momentum and to stay heavily involved in our downtown redevelopment, tourism and cruising growth. I felt I had to remain candidate-neutral in order to accomplish that goal with certainty for our city.

It is with a heavy heart that I see the Peavy mayoral campaign resorting to race separation and distorted and intentionally misleading character assassination in their efforts to overtake front leader Sam Jones. Portions of Peavy's ads and printed material cross the line. In fact, the intent and content endanger our stable politics and our global economic development and investment opportunities. They intentionally alarm and separate our people and our city.

Sam Jones is an intelligent, caring and effective leader. As a county commissioner, Sam has had a plan for the past 18 years. Much has been accomplished as a result. Mobile city and county government and the leaders of our business and civic community united in 1987 behind a Chamber of Commerce-led and broad-based, community-driven, strategic plan process entitled, "*Goals for Mobile.*" Sam Jones, former Mayor Arthur Outlaw and I were a part of that planning process. City and county government partnered and successfully implemented that plan over the past two decades. The results speak for themselves. Our current political, economic and social accomplishments and momentum are no accident.

A major part of that strategic plan process was to stabilize our politics and unify our people. Those efforts elevated our heretofore failed politics and lack of representation and governance to a level of inclusion and consensus on a vision of community-based goals and established many effective public/private partnerships to implement the plan. Sam Jones was a part of that progress, chairing the United Way, leading education-fund drives, participating in our economic development efforts, investing county monies in valuable infrastructure improvements. This city and county are competitive, growing and light years ahead as a result. Recent *Birmingham News* editorials and articles indicate that we are the envy of other communities.