

MEDIA ALERT

MAYORS OF BIRMINGHAM AND HOOVER TO PARTICIPATE IN FORUM ON NEW ECONOMIC PLAN FOR METRO REGION

Public invited to participate and ask questions

WHAT: Blueprint Birmingham — A BABJ Town Hall Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, September 28, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Alabama Power Auditorium. 600 North 18th Street, Birmingham

WHY: Later this month, the Birmingham Business Alliance rolls out its long-awaited strategic plan for the Birmingham metropolitan region. “Blueprint Birmingham” is described as a growth strategy for the seven-county area. But how will it succeed where so many other plans have failed?

The Birmingham Association of Black Journalists turns a critical eye to this initiative and invites business leaders, government officials and the general public to debate the plan in this special town hall meeting. “BABJ is not endorsing the Blueprint,” says BABJ President Steve Crocker, “but we think it is important that people have the chance to ask questions of the business and civic leaders who will have to implement it if it's going to succeed.”

WHO: Panelists will include the mayors of Birmingham and Hoover, business leaders including some of the area’s top employers and key players in economic development. State legislators and other local officials are among the invited guests. And members of the public are invited to ask their own questions about the plan and how it will impact their lives.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

This is the latest in a series of town hall meetings presented by BABJ. Previous ones have tackled the subjects of crime and violence and the quality of the public education system.

The Birmingham Association of Black Journalists is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to encourage the employment and retention of journalists of color, provide opportunities for professional development, offer scholarships and guidance to students considering careers in the media and work to inform the community it serves.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Town Hall Meeting co-chairs Willie Chriesman at 873-1494 or Eddie Lard at 325-2204.