



Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.

William A. Bell, Sr. is the 33rd Mayor of the City of Birmingham, Alabama. He is one of Birmingham's most dynamic, effective and respected public servants with a political career that spans over 30 years. In 1979, Mayor Bell was elected to the Birmingham City Council and served for over 25 years. In 1985, his peers elected him to serve as the first African-American City Council President. He was again chosen President in 1987 and 1997. During his tenure on the Council, he was instrumental in putting procedures in place, such as the Consent Agenda, that are still in use today. He was a champion for education and affordable housing and led the implementation of many city-wide projects that supported those efforts. In 2009, he was elected to serve on the Jefferson County Commission representing District 1, where he fought to save jobs and provide adequate healthcare for the residents of Jefferson County. In 2010, he was elected Mayor of Birmingham and was re-elected in 2011 and 2013. At the time of his election, Birmingham was in the midst of an economic slow-down and was in need of solid, visionary leadership. Armed with a solid background of proven leadership, diplomacy and vision, Mayor Bell was ready to answer the call.

Since his election, Birmingham has experienced an unprecedented comeback and has received numerous accolades including All-American City and was named "Best City in America" in 2014 by Movoto, a real estate website. Tremendous economic development has taken place across the city, including a transformational return of the Southern League's Birmingham Barons to the new Regions Field baseball and event facility. This project has served as a catalyst for hundreds of multi-family units, restaurants and other businesses in the area, including the Negro League Baseball Museum, and a new inter-modal transportation facility, which are both now under construction. In addition, the Birmingham Crossplex, an international multi-use sports complex, opened and has played host to thousands, including the NCAA Division II track and field event attendees. Under his leadership, the first northern business expansion in decades occurred with the construction of a new United States Treasury building and the development of the Uptown Entertainment District, which includes a four-star Westin Hotel with various shops and restaurants. Other notable projects include the expansion of the Summit Shopping Center and construction of the state-of-the-art Grandview Hospital on Highway 280, which will open in late 2015.

A product of Birmingham's Titusville Community, Mayor Bell is a staunch advocate for community development and revitalization. The City of Birmingham, in partnership with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) updated the city's Master Comprehensive Plan for the first time in over 50 years. Mayor Bell is working tirelessly to rebuild the Pratt City community which was ravaged by a deadly F5 tornado in April 2011. Utilizing \$14 million in federal funding from HUD, senior living facilities, a new fire station, a community tornado shelter, and library have all been constructed and are breathing new life into this community. Additionally, Mayor Bell has made a clarion call to revitalize neighborhood parks, recreational centers and libraries throughout the city. In 2014, Mayor Bell rolled out **RISE** (Remove Blight, Increase Values, Strengthen Neighborhoods and Empower Residents), a comprehensive community sustainability strategy.

RISE combines community and economic development; promotes civic engagement and workforce development; and leverages public/private partnership as a strategy to positively impact and sustain the City of Birmingham.

Mayor Bell is carrying Birmingham's story of resilience, reconciliation and transformation throughout the world. He has traveled to the Czech Republic, Paris, France, Israel, London, England and Rome, Italy to speak to its citizens about the role that Birmingham played with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the human rights movement. By partnering with the United Nations Education, Science, Culture Organization (UNESCO), Mayor Bell is working to have the City of Birmingham designated as a World Heritage Historic Site. He has represented the United States at the United Nations Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland about Birmingham's role in bringing dignity and honor to all people, and his humanitarian efforts garnered the presence of the Dalai Lama in Birmingham.

During his service in office, Mayor Bell has emerged as a leader among leaders. In 2014, he was elected to serve as President of the African American Mayors Association (AAMA) and Co-Chair of the United States Conference of Mayors Committee on Human Rights. He was recently tapped to serve as a Co-Chair for President Obama's Initiative "My Brother's Keeper", which creates solutions for the often underserved young African-American male demographic.

Community engagement and involvement is very important to Mayor Bell. He is a Founder and Past President of 100 Black Men, member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Incorporated Fraternity, Rotary Club, Leadership Birmingham, Leadership Alabama, Operation New Birmingham, First Tee Program, as well as other boards and agencies. He also received the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award for recruiting inner city youth, was named Government Person of the Year by the National Business League and was voted one of the Ten Most Influential Leaders in Birmingham. He is a member at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church.

Mayor Bell is a graduate of John Carroll High School and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he received his Master's Degree in Psychology and Guidance and Counseling. He furthered his education by receiving a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from Miles College.

Married to Dr. Sharon C. Bell, Mayor Bell is the caring father of two children: Judge William Anthony Bell, Jr., who is married to Dr. Emily M. Bell; and Jillian Bell. He is the proud, doting grandfather of William Anthony (Trey) Bell, III and Ethan Melton Bell.