JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION



DAVID CARRINGTON GEORGE BOWMAN SANDRA LITTLE BROWN - PRESIDENT PRO **TEMPORE** T. JOE KNIGHT JAMES A. (JIMMIE) STEPHENS - PRESIDENT DAVID CARRINGTON - COMMISSIONER

CHAIR Finance, Information Technology and Business Development District 5 Suite 230 Courthouse 716 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd. N. Birmingham, Alabama 35203 Telephone (205) 325-5503 Fax (205) 325-5960

December 8, 2014

Dr. Ray Watts, President University of Alabama at Birmingham 1070 Administrative Building 701 20th Street South Birmingham, AL 35294-0110

Dear Dr. Watts,

We, the members of the Jefferson County Commission, believe that the football program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is important for many reasons, including maintaining an economically vibrant and growing community that increases the quality of life of our citizens.

We fully respect UAB's right to make decisions regarding its affairs, but given the community wide impact of eliminating UAB football, we believe that it would be beneficial to all involved if there were a public opportunity to thoroughly review and discuss possible alternatives, such as partnerships with businesses and local governments, before a final decision is made regarding the future of UAB football.

Please understand that our objective is not meant to second guess your authority as the chief executive officer of the University, but to offer our assistance, if desired, to review possible alternatives. To this end, we encourage you to convene a task force of local city, county and state elected officials, local business and community leaders, and members of the Alabama Sports Foundation to review what, if anything, can be done to save the UAB football program. If you would like, we would be glad to help organize such a group and to facilitate such a review.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. We look forward to receiving your reply.

Commissioner Jimmie Stephens, President

Commissioner George Bowman

Commissioner Joe

Sincerely.

Commissioner David Carrington

Commissioner Sandra Brown, President Pro Tem