City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

MEMORANDUM

Office of City Manager

DATE: **April 8, 2015**

TO: **City Commission**

FROM: **Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager**

SUBJECT: **AT&T Property at 155 Martin Street**

The property owned by AT&T located at 155 Martin Street has been a point of concern for some time given its minimalist upkeep and maintenance over the years. I receive comments frequently questioning if improvements can be made to this property. I have met with Michigan representatives of AT&T in the past expressing an interest in enhancements to this property, but none have resulted to date.

Given the past and on-going investment and enhancements that have occurred in the area around this property over the past several years, Mayor Sherman has suggested a letter be sent to AT&T Corporate on behalf of the City Commission to request a meeting to discuss the City's efforts in improving the downtown and the opportunities for this property.

The attached letter has been drafted to initiate this meeting with the appropriate decision makers at AT&T to help facilitate these discussions.

Suggested Resolution:

To authorize the Mayor to sign and send the letter of April 13, 2015 to AT&T Corporate to request a meeting concerning the property at 155 Martin Street.

City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

April 13, 2015

Randall L Stephenson
Chairman and CEO
AT&T
208 S. Akard St.
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Stephenson,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Birmingham City Commission to request your assistance with regard to your property located at 155 Martin Street in Birmingham, Michigan.

As you may know, this property is located in the heart of Downtown Birmingham across from the municipal building and adjoining our City square, Shain Park. This area has received considerable redevelopment, both private and public, over the past several years and the improvements in this area are the pride of our community. Martin Street and the surrounding streets are home to our municipal building, downtown park, public library, a premiere 4-star hotel, a non-profit community center and several commercial and high-end residential properties that carry foot traffic past your property daily. We pride ourselves as a walkable community as noted above by our city motto.

While the rest of our downtown has received considerable improvements, we continually hear concerns about the lack of attention and aging condition of your property. We have attempted to work with your local representatives to discuss opportunities for enhancing this property so that it may better conform to the standards of the surrounding properties and our Downtown Master Plan. We have been told repeatedly that while your local representative may understand our concern, they have no authority to make changes and the property remains untouched and a point of concern for the community.

We take great pride in our community and have worked very hard to allow the City to evolve to remain a vibrant destination for hundreds of thousands of people on a weekly basis. We have worked closely with the property owners in the downtown and surrounding areas to create a sense of pride in community for our City. I am reaching out to you in this vain and would like to invite you or a representative with decision making authority to meet with me and other representatives from the City this spring in Birmingham for the opportunity to showcase the improvements that have been made around your property and discuss the potential for your property and the opportunities to produce some revenue for your Company from this property as well. I will have our City Manager, Joe Valentine, contact you in the coming weeks to work with you in scheduling a meeting. I truly hope that you will

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take me up on this offer as we are very proud of what has been accomplished here and disappointed that your building has not, to date, contributed to the vibrancy of our City.

Attached are some photos of your property which illustrate its relation to the existing environment for your reference. Your property at 155 Martin Street sits at a key corner of our municipal building and park. As such, it has incredible potential to integrate into the improvements that have already been made.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of my request and look forward to discussing ways we can work together to continue to improve the heart of our City.

Sincerely,

Stuart Lee Sherman
Mayor

cc: City Commission
Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager