



POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ANNEXATION EFFORTS CITY OF MOBILE

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce has long-supported the growth of the City of Mobile through annexation. The Mobile City Council is being asked to give citizens in three unincorporated areas in Mobile County the opportunity to vote to be annexed into the city of Mobile. The Mobile Area Chamber believes this to be beneficial to all concerned, and urges the Mobile City Council give citizens a voice on annexation.

The City of Mobile has been providing fire and police protection to citizens living within a three-mile police jurisdiction around the city. If these areas are annexed into the city of Mobile, citizens within the proposed areas would begin paying for police and fire protection, lessening the current tax burden provided by citizens of Mobile.

The Mobile Area Chamber advocates for strong coordination between the city of Mobile and Mobile County to ensure a smooth transition of police and fire protection in the affected areas within the three-mile police jurisdiction.

Also, the proposed annexation will increase Mobile's population from 192,000 to just over 205,000, making Mobile Alabama's second largest city. A larger population before the 2020 U.S. Census count enables Mobile to be eligible for additional federal grants addressing critical needs, such as public safety, youth initiatives, housing and transportation. It is impossible to underestimate the importance of this opportunity to the future economic growth and well-being of the city of Mobile and its citizens.

The Mobile Area Chamber strongly encourages the Mobile City Council to call for a vote that will allow impacted citizens to join the city of Mobile. Calling for an annexation vote by the Mobile City Council would be consistent with the five previous calls for a vote over the last 27 years.

Daniel Dennis IV
Chair of the Board

William B. Sisson
President and CEO

Dated: November 14, 2019