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THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Waymond Jackson wins 40 Under 40 Award in Economic Development

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – February 1, 2019 – Waymond Jackson, senior vice president of public policy for the Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA), has been selected as a winner in the economic development profession’s 40 Under 40 Awards, the only award of its kind recognizing young talent in the economic development industry.

Also from Birmingham, Blair King, manager of economic development and existing industry with Alabama Power Co., was selected for the honor. Both Jackson and King were nominated by the BBA.

An independent, five-member selection committee chose the winners from a pool of more than 170 qualified candidates based on their exceptional accomplishments and contributions to the economic development industry. The awards program was managed by Development Counsellors International (DCI), a New York City-based firm that specializes in economic development marketing, and Jorgenson Consulting, a leading national executive search firm serving organizations in economic and community development industries.

“Waymond’s recognition further shows how economic development, public policy and workforce development are connected, and how the best economic developers also understand public policy and workforce development,” said Brian Hilson, President and CEO of the BBA. “We are proud to have Waymond as a part of our organization.”

Jackson has been at the BBA since 2012, and since then has led the creation and implementation of several notable workforce initiatives, including the BBA’s [Talent Recruitment Project](#), an effort to attract millennial talent to Birmingham for career opportunities; [OnBoard Birmingham](#), a retention initiative designed to introduce early-career talent to the Birmingham community; the establishment of the [Alabama Workforce Training Center](#) in Birmingham, a construction and manufacturing training center for incumbent workers, high school students and the community at large; and playing a key role in the region’s [Building \(it\) Together initiative](#).

“The 40 Under 40 Award is designed to identify the economic development profession’s rising stars,” said Julie Curtin, president of DCI’s economic development practice. “These young economic development professionals represent the future of our industry. The selection committee had a challenge selecting only 40 winners, but we are delighted by the smarts, initiative and game-changing mindset represented in these finalists. Economic development is in good hands with these young leaders, and Waymond Jackson is certainly no exception.”

King has been at Alabama Power for nine years and has made an impact through numerous economic development projects in Birmingham and across Alabama, including Amazon’s new \$325 million state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Bessemer and internet-based grocery delivery service Shipt’s announcement it will add more than 880 employees locally.

DCI and Jorgenson officially announced the winners last week at an awards reception during the International Economic Development Council Leadership Summit in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For more information on the 40 Under 40 winners, [click here](#).

The Birmingham Business Alliance promotes economic growth in Birmingham, Jefferson County and throughout the seven-county metropolitan area. For more information about the BBA visit its website at www.birminghambusinessalliance.com.

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