FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOLS REVAMPS RED CARPET HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PLANS
In-Person Traditional Graduation Ceremonies Will Take Place Inside Legion Field with Social Distancing Guidelines

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA — MAY 22, 2020 — After approval from the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board, the Birmingham Board of Education will proceed with its plan to hold in-person high school graduation ceremonies for Birmingham City Schools during the first week of June. This is a change from the previously released plan to hold a “red carpet drive-through” ceremony. Students will still get the chance to walk the red carpet, but it will take place inside of Legion Field.

In light of Governor Kay Ivey’s Amended Safer at Home order issued yesterday, the BCS Commencement Committee met today to determine if we can proceed with traditional graduation for Birmingham City Schools 2020 Graduating Class. Gov Ivey’s Safer at Home order now allows for School openings to happen as early as June 1, 2020, and for school athletics to resume. High school principals on the call were in unanimous support. We also had student representatives on the call that gave some well thought out support for a traditional graduation ceremony. They shared their views both in well written and verbal forms.

“Birmingham City Schools puts the safety and security of our students at the forefront. In light of the guidelines released by the Governor and with input from city officials and county health officials, we decided to revamp our graduation plan. It is our sincere desire to provide the graduating class of 2020 with a safe and traditional celebration to honor their achievements. We also must remain cautious and enforce strict social distance guidelines to ensure protection of our scholars and their families,” said Dr. Mark A. Sullivan, Interim Superintendent for Birmingham City Schools.

The schedule for each high school will be forthcoming, pending approval. We have received the “blessing” of the Office of the Mayor and guidance from the Jefferson County Health Officer, but final plans will have to be approved by the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board.

Tentative plans will allow each graduating senior to have 5 guests. Families will sit 6 feet apart, but families of the same household will be allowed to sit together. Everyone entering the stadium will be required to wear a face mask. Sanitation during and following each ceremony will take place. More information concerning logistics will be forthcoming.

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