

# JESSE MATTHEWS

## Areas of Expertise

- **Local Government Leadership.** Mr. Matthew's 24 years as an elected city councilmember enable him to assist clients in navigating the complex world of local government. He has a deep understanding of all aspects of municipal government and throughout his career he was particularly focused on community and economic development. Among his many accomplishments on Bessemer, Alabama's city council were finding solutions to eliminate flooding and drainage problems in several areas, initiating a sanitary sewer project, and supporting various development projects, including the construction of a massive Amazon fulfillment center, the largest single investment in Bessemer's history.
- **Nonprofit Advocacy and Governance.** In recognition of his leadership qualities and expertise in municipal affairs, Mr. Matthews served on the Boards of Directors of the Alabama League of Municipalities and the National League of Cities (NLC) and in other capacities as well. At NLC, he was selected to chair the Community and Economic Development federal advocacy committee, one of seven highly coveted committee assignments. Another significant achievement was his involvement as one of the earliest members of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials where he served on its Board of Directors for several years. He also served as the Parliamentarian for this prestigious and powerful NLC constituency group.
- **Private-Sector Employment.** Upon completion of his education, Mr. Matthews joined Alabama Power Company in Birmingham. He was employed there for 37 years until his retirement in 2021. During his employment, he worked in several capacities: utility specialist, street light maintenance, explosive handler, meter reader, and field service representative.

## Professional Experience

- **Bearing Advisors, LLC**, Advisor, 2023-present
- **Alabama Power Company**, various positions (see above), 1984-2021
- **City of Bessemer, Alabama**, City Councilmember, 1998-2022

## Professional Licenses and Services, Awards, Recognition, and Certifications

- President, Alabama League of Municipalities, 2018
- Member, Community and Economic Development Committee, Alabama League of Municipalities, 2002-2010
- Member, Board of Directors, Alabama League of Municipalities, 2004-2022
- Member, Executive Committee, Alabama League of Municipalities, various years
- Advanced Certified Municipal Official, Alabama League of Municipalities, 2004
- Certified Municipal Official, Alabama Municipal League, 2001
- Member, National League of Cities, 1998-2022
- Member, Board of Directors, National League of Cities, 2013 and 2021
- Member, Community and Economic Development Committee, National League of Cities and Committee Chair, 2021

## Education

- Attended Bessemer State College and University of Alabama at Birmingham prior to completing studies in electrical repair at Lawson State Community College.