



The word's been spreading like wildfire all afternoon - [Birmingham, AL was included \(as number 10\) on Livability.com's list of the top 10 best downtown areas for 2014](#). Fort Worth, Texas topped the list, that also included cities like Providence, RI, and the other #bham, Bellingham, WA.

A statement shared via email by [Birmingham Business Alliance](#) president Brian Hilson expressed excitement about the significance of the latest recognition by outside media outlets:

"This is fantastic news, not only for the City of Birmingham, but for the entire Birmingham region," said Hilson. "Downtowns, especially active ones like ours in Birmingham, help project a positive community image. Downtowns serve as a signature place for the community they are part of. They contain history, and they represent current and future economic vitality. In most metropolitan areas the downtown is the economic hub of the region, and that's definitely true in Birmingham because of the concentration of employment, as well as the livability features downtown Birmingham offers. It is exciting to see downtown Birmingham receive this much-deserved recognition. We'll use this positive news to promote further investment in Birmingham."

The announcement adds to an ever-growing collection of top 10-type lists on which Alabama's Magic City has been a part - including previous lists published by [Livability.com](#). This isn't necessarily a bad thing as [the website](#), launched in late 2009 and published by [Franklin, TN-based Journal Communications](#), strives to be a resource about "America's best places" and "what makes cities truly livable" (according to [their fan page on Facebook](#)) while chronicling more than 500 cities across the country.

The city has been previously recognized as having one of the top 10 libraries for children ([#9, 2012](#)); one of the top 10 spring break destinations for families ([#6, 2013](#)); and a top 10 place to retire ([#8, 2013](#)).