

# FBI's new office opens near BJCC, costs \$34 million

By **CAROL ROBINSON**  
*News staff writer*

The Federal Bureau of Investigation on Thursday officially opened its state-of-the-art Birmingham headquarters after spending more than 40 years in its former building.

The opening, which brought FBI Director Robert Mueller to Birmingham, was held in a tent outside the \$34 million building at 1000 18th St. North near the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex.

The 88,000-square-foot headquarters is almost double the size of the agency's former location in the 2121 Building. The FBI moved into that location in 1962, initially occupying half of the 14th floor and eventually expanding to 4½ floors with 46,435 square feet.

Carmen Adams, special agent in charge of the Birmingham division, beamed at Thursday's ceremony.

"Today truly is a dream come true," Adams said. "Following the events of 9/11, the FBI was challenged to become a more effective, efficient and modern organization as we address more complex, resource-intent and difficult crime and intelligence problems. This facility will be instrumental in helping us to meet those challenges."

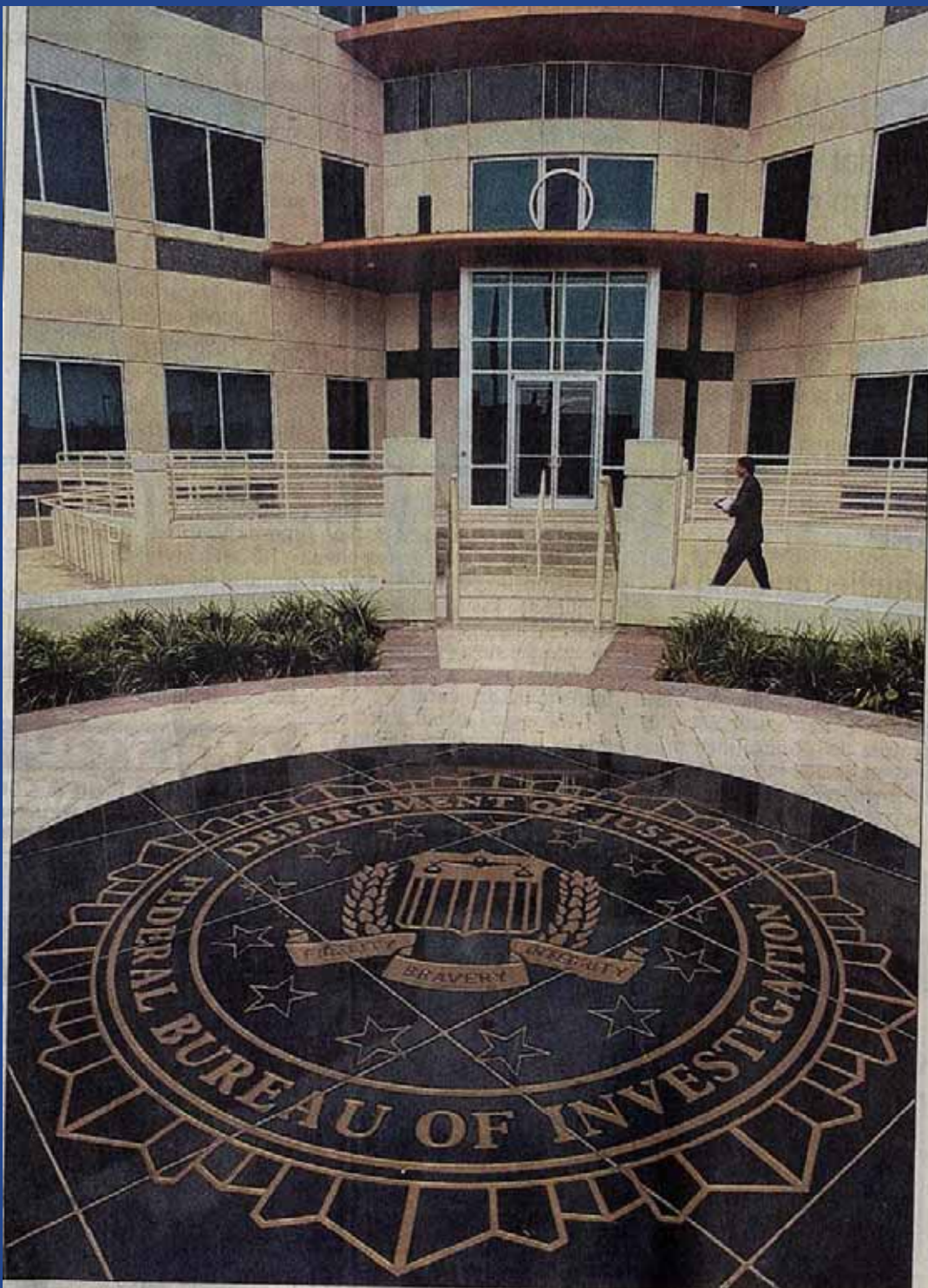
The gated, three-story building has a two-story atrium and houses almost 200 employees, who began the moving process



FBI Director Robert Mueller was in Birmingham for Thursday's official opening ceremony.

at the end of May.

Adams said the new building has space for the computer analysis response team that is responsible for the forensic analysis of computer evidence, expanded space for technical operations, Major Case investigative rooms, and more space and resources for the Evidence Response Team.



NEWS STAFF/JOE SONGER

The new FBI Birmingham headquarters sports the agency seal in tile.