Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch For the Thursday, August 30, 2018 Edition From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo City of Monroe, LA

## Monroe Access Program DBE Financial Inclusion Seminar September 11<sup>th</sup> at Monroe Convention Center

On September 11th, we will be hosting our "4<sup>th</sup> Annual Monroe Access Program Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Seminar." This year's focus is a Financial Inclusion Seminar. We have eight local financial institutions who will be on hand to share information about programs and financing options available to DBE's who qualify. In case you are wondering, DBE stands for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – these are minority and women-owned businesses.

Sometimes, minority and women-owned businesses face a harder challenge when it comes to business growth and stability. Each year, the City of Monroe hosts a workshop or seminar to help connect DBE's with information and resources that will help them succeed. This year's "Financial Inclusion Seminar" is another way the City of Monroe is working to help empower minority and women-owned business.

We are thankful for all the financial institutions that are participating: Woodforest Bank (Title Sponsor), Bancorp South, Capital One, Centric Federal Credit Union, Iberia Bank, Origin Bank, Ouachita Valley Federal Credit Union, and Regions Bank. Their participation shows commitment to helping everyone succeed.

Please help us spread the word. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Monroe Access Program DBE Financial Inclusion Seminar will take place from 8:30 am until 11:30 am Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at the Monroe Convention Center's Bayou Room. The event is FREE. For more information, please contact Jackie Slack at 329-2379. By working together, we are making a difference.