

GUEST COLUMN
For the Thursday, February 1, 2018 Edition
From: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo

A Community Conversation About Race & Diversity

I am inviting the public to attend a “Community Conversation about Race & Diversity.” The panel discussion will take place from 6 pm until 8 pm Tuesday, February 6, in the W.L. “Jack” Howard Theater – at the Monroe Civic Center complex.

Race & Diversity are subjects that many people have trouble discussing. Some are uncomfortable. Some are overly argumentative. While others embrace the opportunity to talk about our differences.

I think that it is troubling to see polarizing reactions on virtually any subject where race or cultural diversity may be a factor. Why is there such a divide in regard to the national anthem protest? Police brutality? Job opportunities? Immigration? And, more.

If we don’t ever talk to one another, how can we better understand each other and move beyond points of division? So, I am asking some individuals from throughout the community to be part of a diverse panel discussion on some of these issues.

This panel discussion won’t solve the issues of racism and cultural biases. However, it can serve as a starting point for more discussions within our homes, churches, schools, civic groups, and work places.

I hope to see you there. By working together, we are making a difference.