

Citizens to Elect Mell Monroe

Contact: Mell Monroe: 312-493-2953 or
Tom Gradel, Gradel Communications 773-561-1040

For Immediate Release
(6 - 19 - 2006)

Businessman and Community Activist Mell Monroe To Challenge Ald. Tillman in 3rd Ward Race

Mell Monroe, an accomplished businessman and community activist, has announced that he will run for Third Ward Alderman against the incumbent, Alderman Dorothy Tillman, in next February's election for Chicago City Council.

"The Third Ward is woefully underdeveloped and for a very long time has received inadequate support from the City," Monroe said. "We can change this by building a family friendly community where quality educational resources are accessible to everyone, and where people of all ages can safely walk and shop at innovative businesses in our own neighborhoods.

"No one person can do this by himself. But I will use all my skills and talent to bring people together, motivate community participation, and encourage residents to get involved, stay involved and improve the quality of life in the Third Ward," Monroe said. "My experiences in the community and in recruiting, sales and business have prepared me for the task," he added.

Monroe, age 52, and his wife, Angela, live in a vintage house that they purchased five years ago in the Bronzeville neighborhood.

Monroe was the founder and past president of the Bronzeville Area Residents and Commerce Council (BARCC), and founder and former president of the Greater South Loop Association (GSLA). The Monroes previously lived in a South Loop condo.

Monroe is the principal owner of Execusearch, a search firm specializing in finding career opportunities for African-Americans, Hispanics, women and members of other population segments that are historically underrepresented in management and professional jobs.

Execusearch, which has an office in the Hyde Park Bank Building, concentrates on recruiting and placing executives and professionals in sales management and technological fields with Fortune 1000 companies. In his 15 years with Execusearch, Monroe has placed more than 200 professionals with Apple Computer, SBC Ameritech, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems and many other leading corporations.

(more)

Before joining Execusearch, Monroe worked in various sales and marketing positions with Johnson & Johnson, Mobil Chemical, Coca Cola and General Electric. Prior to his corporate career he spent two years teaching business subjects in a public high school in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Throughout his career, Monroe has used his business savvy, sales acumen and entrepreneurial skills in his volunteer community work. He is a senior volunteer for Real Men Cook, a men's group that stresses the importance of African American men being actively involved in family life. In that role, Monroe helped launch the group's very successful Sweet Potato Pound Cake Mix. He conducted focus groups, interviewed supermarket managers and customers and provided market intelligence that helped improve the product and packaging. (See Chicago Sun-Times, p-4, June 15, 2006.) He has also recruited numerous volunteers to participate in the annual Real Men Cook outing held each Father's Day at the South Shore Cultural Center in Chicago.

Mell Monroe was a Local School Council board member for the Douglas/Pershing School, 3200 S. Calumet, was a member of the Transitional Advisory Council (TAC) for the Chicago Public Schools' Renaissance 2010 program, and was a co-founder of the South Loop Education Alliance. He is a member of the National Fatherhood Initiative.

Monroe was born in 1954 in Montclair, N.J. He is the seventh of nine children raised by a single mom who worked as a domestic and cared for her children. Monroe became an activist in high school when he organized his classmates to raise funds to create a teen activity center at a local Salvation Army center.

After graduating from high school, Monroe studied business and earned a B.S. degree in 1976 from Rider University in Lawrenceville, a suburb of Trenton, N.J.