



For Immediate Release

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2019 is a Wrap & the Mobile Area Chamber is Ready for 2020

- New jobs, entrepreneur growth, advocating for legislative issues affecting the community among 2019 highlights
- Annual Report (attached) features accomplishments measured against jobs, advocacy, value & excellence
- Annual Meeting set for Wednesday, Feb. 5 & the band Yeah Probably headlines the after party

[Mobile, Ala. | 01.22.2020] The Mobile Area Chamber's 2019 annual report chronicles organizational highlights for the year in four focus areas – jobs, advocacy, value and excellence.

Jobs: Among the 2019 successes are expansions underway at several local companies and the recruitment of a cold storage facility under construction, investing \$178.9 million in capital investment and responsible for adding 150 new jobs. As the lead economic developer for the City of Mobile and Mobile County, the Chamber works to retain, expand and recruit businesses, investments and jobs, including entrepreneurial assistance, small business development and workforce development.

Jobs: Chamber staff also worked on entrepreneurial programs, setting a unique record of 100 percent graduation for the third consecutive year of the Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders program and celebrating the ground breaking of Innovation PortAL, a nonprofit innovation and entrepreneurial hub accelerating regional startup growth.

Advocacy: Advocacy efforts varied from legislative issues to events with elected officials to communicating our members' business news via a newly redesigned magazine and the Chamber's social media platforms. The Chamber's board of directors passed resolutions supporting Rebuild Alabama to help fund Alabama's infrastructure, opposing dissolving Common Core with no replacement in sight, continuing the Chamber's stance in support of annexation and a Memorandum of Understanding with Aero Montreal of Canada to

collaborate on issues and activities related to aerospace in the two communities. The Chamber's annual legislative agenda is directed toward creating an environment that promotes business and community growth.

Value: Last year, the Chamber presented 61 small-business-focused workshops and seminars, with more than 3,286 attendees. The Chamber assisted 43 area businesses with ribbon cuttings and grand openings and recognized 33 members and companies for their work. The final 2019 award – the Corporate Community Service Award – will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

2019-2020 Annual Meeting

Tickets are still available for the Chamber's 183rd Annual Meeting set for Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the Mobile Convention Center, beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$60 for Chamber members and \$70 for nonmembers.

Bill Sisson, the Chamber's president and CEO, will welcome the crowd and later in the program review 2019, introduce the organization's new vice president of community and governmental affairs and offer a preview of 2020.

Outgoing 2019 Chamber Board of Directors Chairman Daniel Dennis, president of Roberts Brothers Inc., will speak about the Chamber's impact in 2019 and recognize 2019 award winners from Small Business of the Year to Manufacturer of the Year. Dennis will also present the 2019 Corporate Community Service Award in partnership with Junior League of Mobile.

Terry Harbin, market president of BancorpSouth, takes over as 2020 Chamber board chair. His comments will focus on this year's program of work.

The event will include five videos featuring Chamber staff and representatives of member companies who talk about the Mobile Area Chamber's impact.

Following the program, the anticipated crowd exceeding 900 attendees will move to the convention center's ballroom for the after party featuring Yeah Probably, a popular local group infusing indie, pop and soul into their unique sound.

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The full 2019 Annual Report is on the Chamber's website: <https://mobilechamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-ANNUAL-REPORT.pdf> and is attached.

About the Mobile Area Chamber

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce is a private business organization with 1,900 members that employ 98,255 people, and the economic developer for the City of Mobile and Mobile County. We represent business interests of the Mobile region, advocating for business-friendly legislative policies and serve as a resource for small businesses and area entrepreneurs. Additional information is on the Chamber's website at mobilechamber.com, Facebook @MobileChamber, Twitter and YouTube at @MobileChamber, Instagram @ Mobile_Area_Chamber and LinkedIn @Mobile Area Chamber.