

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch  
For the Thursday, March 21, 2019 Edition  
From: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo  
City of Monroe, LA

## **O.K. Program: “Time to Talk” Community Session**

**TEST TAKING STRATEGIES**  
**DRINKING & DRIVING | DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
**SUICIDE PREVENTION | BULLYING**

The Monroe Police Department’s O.K. (Our Kids) male youth mentoring program, in partnership with Real Vision from Real Women and Love & Joy Mentoring, will host an open discussion about test taking strategies, drinking & driving, domestic violence, suicide prevention and bullying.

This session will take place from 10 am until 1 pm Saturday, March 23, 2019. It will be held at the Benoit Community Center, located at 1700 Oaklawn Drive in Monroe.

The forum is for local (male and female) teenagers, pre-teens, and parents/guardians. This age group deals with these issues daily at school and within the community. The mission of this forum, and other future efforts, is to give each individual youth a voice, to help them know “it’s okay to not be okay; but, it is time to talk about it with people who care.”

The mission is to empower and improve the quality of life for our young people and their families. It all starts with an open and honest discussion.

**CONTACTS:** Monroe Police Department Sergeant Larry “Flip” Wilson at 318-791-7607 OR Fredricka Walker at 769-241-1145

By working together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!