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*** Media Release ***

County Clerk Jamie Romeo Launches New Small Business Initiative

Announing New Partnership with Rochester Chamber, Small Business Development Centers, City of Rochester

(Rochester NY) – Today, Monroe County Clerk Jamie Romeo was proud to announce a new small business initiative in partnership with the City of Rochester, Rochester Chamber of Commerce and Small Business Development Centers. As the statutory authority to receive and record of DBA certificates (doing business as), the County Clerk's Office is often the first stop of a new small business venture. Now as part of that transaction, residents will receive a resource guide, providing them with additional tools to help ensure their success.

According to Monroe County Clerk Jamie Romeo "Monroe County is home of a legacy on entrepreneurs. While this resource guide may seem like a small step, we know that access to information can be make or break to small businesses. I am proud of this new partnership and commit to always searching for find new ways to support our local businesses."

"Entrepreneurs and small businesses are the heartbeat of our city and the engine of our economy," said Mayor Malik D. Evans. "Centralizing access to resources that can help them succeed into a single booklet that they can have at their fingertips is another way to inspire hope and deliver opportunity. The City is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Monroe County Clerk's Office, the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and the Small Business Development Center to ensure that local entrepreneurs can find the resources they need to navigate the complexities of launching a business."

Bob Duffy, President and CEO, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, said, "Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce has a long-standing commitment to supporting the vibrant small business community of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes region. Small businesses serve as the backbone of our communities, providing critical products, services, and jobs. We are excited about this initiative that serves to support aspiring entrepreneurs and help businesses grow, and we are grateful to Clerk Romeo and our partners from the City of Rochester and SBDCs for their leadership. We encourage any business in need of assistance to reach out to us at any time."





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"The Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) is a proud partner of Monroe County as well as surrounding counties in the Finger Lakes region that offers no cost confidential technical advisement, counseling, training and research to entrepreneurs and small business owners. Since 1984, SBDC offices statewide have served over 583,000 citizens, creating \$8.7B investments and created and retained 263,997 jobs. Services include but not limited business plan development, marketing, financial assistance, trade, legal, research, workshops, seminars and a large network of additional tools and resources". -Lindsay Ward, Regional Director of SUNY Brockport SBDC & Paul Morrell Assistant Director SUNY Geneseo SBDC

"We work with dozens of businesses and entrepreneurs daily and recognize the value of having the Small Business Resource Guide, which I know will serve our businesses well as they grow the local economy, said Angela Rollins, director of the Mayor's Office of Financial Empowerment. "The Office of Financial Empowerment specializing in providing free one-on-one financial counseling, 0% interest small business loans, and individualized resource navigation services for our small businesses. I want to thank Monroe County Clerk Jamie Romeo for establishing the Guide and for providing the Office of Financial Empowerment the opportunity to share its financial programs and services with the Rochester business community."

To learn more about filing a DBA and the resources available, visit the Monroe County Clerk's website at www.monroecounty.gov/clerk-dba.

If you have questions or need more information please feel free to contact our communications officer Katelyn at <u>mcclerkpress@monroecounty.gov</u>

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