

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### **Senator James Clayborne, Jr.** Illinois State Senate

Illinois State Senator James Clayborne currently serves as the Assistant Majority Leader and has represented the 57th District since 1995. His committee assignments include: Senate Committee of the Whole; Environment and Energy (Chairperson); Executive; Executive Appointments; Insurance; Pensions and Investments. He is the former St. Clair County Assistant State's Attorney. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he received his B.S. degree from Tennessee State University and his J.D. from the University of Miami. Senator Clayborne is a partner with the law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson.



### **Dr. Gerald Higginbotham** LLIFE "Dreams Realized"

Dr. Gerald A. Higginbotham is an educator, entrepreneur, and community activist who is also an airline pilot of 21 years. He holds a PhD in Divinity from the Jesus Christ of Nazareth Church International, certificate from the Joseph School of Business and Entrepreneurship, and diplomas from Light Bible College and Power Learning Systems in Information Age Development. He also holds a MA in Religious Studies and BA in Psychology.

Dr. Higginbotham is currently CEO and President of Living Learning In Faith Everyday, Inc. (LLIFE), Manager/Member of Information Age Consultants, Inc., and Executive Director of Unity for a Better Community, NP Inc. He conducts Executive level training in Leadership Development, Financial Literacy, and Success Networking (the Collaborative Imperative).



### **Mr. Tony Thompson** President/CEO KWAME Building Group, Inc.

Anthony (Tony) Thompson is the President/CEO of Kwame Building Group, Inc. (KWAME), which he founded in 1991. Headquartered in St. Louis, MO, KWAME is a construction management/program management firm that serves as an independent agent to the owner.

KWAME provides, along with other services, project management, scheduling, estimating, contract/claims administration, document controls, and value engineering.

A professional engineer, Mr. Thompson holds bachelors degrees in environmental design and architectural engineering from the University of Kansas and he has a master of science in civil engineering/construction management from Washington University and master masters in business administration from Webster University.



### **Mr. Michael Roberts, Jr.** Roberts Hotels Group, LLC

Michael V. Roberts, Jr. serves as Vice President of Business Development and heads Roberts Hotels Group under its parent, The Roberts Companies. His sole responsibility is to increase the net worth of the family owned businesses by expanding the hotel assets and operational management services. Prior to his current employment, Michael worked at Armstrong Teasdale, LLP. Michael is the co-founder of Roberts Twins & Associates, an entertainment consulting firm. Most recently Michael served as field operator for the Obama for President campaign.

Michael has a B.A. degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and a J.D. from Pepperdine School of Law in Malibu, California.



Casino Queen Hotel and Casino - Grand Ballroom

September 25, 2008

## THE CITY OF EAST ST. LOUIS PRESENTS **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

East St. Louis City Hall  
301 River Park Drive  
East St. Louis, IL 62201



THE CITY OF EAST ST. LOUIS PRESENTS

## 2008 Opportunity: East St. Louis

*Enhancing Business &  
Development Opportunities*

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

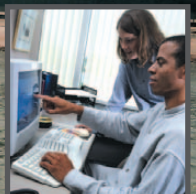
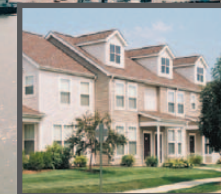
~ THURSDAY ~

September 25, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Casino Queen Hotel and Casino  
Grand Ballroom**

200 S. Front Street  
East St. Louis, IL 62201



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**FACILITATOR: Mr. Percy Dace, The Dace Company**

- 7:30 – 8:30 A.M. Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 – 8:40 A.M. Mayor Alvin Parks, City of East. St. Louis, IL  
Welcome & Introduction of Guest Speaker**
- 8:40 – 9:15 A.M. Keynote Speaker: Senator James Clayborne,  
Illinois State Senate**
- 9:15 – 9:30 A.M. Robert Betts, City Manager  
City of East St. Louis, IL  
"What's Happening in the City of East St. Louis!"**
- 9:30 – 9:45 A.M. Break**
- 9:45 – 11:45 A.M. Presentations: Partnerships with  
Federal, State, County and  
Local Departments and Agencies:  
Best Practices**
- 11:45 A.M. – 12 Noon Break**
- 12:00 – 12:20 P.M. Pre-Lunch Inspiration:  
Dr. Gerald Higginbotham,  
LLIFE "Dreams Realized"**

- 12:20 – 1:15 P.M. Lunch is Served  
Keynote Speaker: Mr. Tony Thompson,  
President/CEO KWAME Building Group, Inc.**
- 1:15 – 2:15 P.M. Lynne D. Baker, Economic Specialist  
City of East St. Louis  
Zone Designations and Neighborhood Redevelopment  
Corporation Law**
- 2:15 – 2:30 P.M. Break**
- 2:30 – 3:30 P.M. Keynote Speaker: Mr. Michael Roberts, Jr.,  
Roberts Hotels Group, LLC**
- 3:30 – 3:45 P.M. Recap/Closing**
- 3:45 – 5:00 P.M. Networking/Tour of the City of East St. Louis**
- 5:00 – 6:30 P.M. Social Hour – Casino Queen Hospitality Suite**

~ Thursday ~

**September 25, 2008**

~  
**Casino Queen Hotel and Casino  
Grand Ballroom**

200 S. Front Street ~ East St. Louis, IL 62201

**Registration & Continental Breakfast  
7:30 – 8:30 A.M.**

**8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

*Lunch provided*

**RSVP by Contacting:**

Kathryn Bastian @ 618.482.6653  
or email: Kathryn.Bastian@cesl.us

**OR MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO:**

Kathryn Bastian, Administrative Assistant  
to the City Manager - City of East St. Louis  
301 River Park Drive  
East St. Louis, IL 62201

**Please Register by Friday, September 19, 2008**



**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_