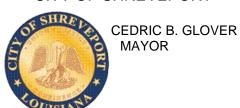
CITY OF SHREVEPORT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor Leads Local Contingent on Intercity Visit

Mayor Cedric Glover and about 50 elected officials, business and community leaders, university administrators and health-care executives are heading to Birmingham, Ala., for a three-day intercity visit.

The group will gather at the Shreveport Convention Center to board a chartered bus for Birmingham on Sunday (Oct. 6) at 7:30 a.m.

The intercity visit is a strategy used by cities seeking to explore opportunities to enhance the quality of life for its citizens. These trips allow for direct interaction with key leaders in other communities facing similar issues.

The Shreveport contingent will meet with Birmingham officials who will share their insight and experiences on several topics, including the University of Alabama at Birmingham's emergence as a successful medical research center, economic development and academic programming.

Birmingham has a population of about 212,000, slightly higher than Shreveport's. Like Shreveport, Birmingham also as a strong Mayor-Council form of government and appeals to tourists on multiple levels, including historic structures and architecture and annual festivals.

The Innovation Depot is another one of Birmingham's major attractions. This technology center and business incubation program focuses on developing emerging biotechnology/life science, information technology, engineering and service businesses. A public-private economic development effort, Innovation Depot is funded by the Birmingham regional business community, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and other leading private foundations, UAB, the City of Birmingham and Jefferson County.

"Our state is making significant changes in its higher education and health-care systems, and I believe Birmingham offers a viable snapshot that we can look at as we continue developing a successful blueprint of our own," Mayor Glover said. "This is a chance for us to get an up close and personal look at best practices and determine which concepts might work for us."

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