

VERGE OFFLINE

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APRIL 2017 • VOLUME VI



MAYOR

Jannquell Peters

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Sharon Shropshire, At-Large
Alexander Gothard

WARD B

Karen Rene', At-Large
Thomas Calloway

WARD C

Nanette Saucier, At-Large
Myron Cook

WARD D

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City Manager

Fred Gardiner

Editor-In-Chief

Renita T. Shelton



EAST POINT MAYOR: "TODAY WE ARE SOARING, AND I AM HAPPY TO SHARE THE FOUNDATIONS WE HAVE PUT IN PLACE TO OVERCOME OUR HISTORY"

Mayor Jannquell Peters delivered her State of the City Address before a crowd of more than 150 residents, business leaders, organizations and East Point City staffers on February 16, 2017 at the City Annex. During the address, Mayor Peters expounded on the numerous achievements the City has made under the current administration which include:

- East Point receiving its first ever bond rating of "A" from the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, signaling East Point is a sound place to do business
- A new City hall being approved, and by 2018 the downtown East Point streetscape undergoing a complete transformation
- A new Fire Station #4 being approved, with substantial completion by mid-2018
- Construction investment in East Point exceeding \$83.8 million in 2016, compared to \$14.8 million in 2015
- East Point experiencing a drop in crime by nearly 6% in 2016, and a 50% reduction in homicides
- East Point receiving an Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of 1, the highest possible, which likely will lower insurance rates for residents and businesses
- Rebranding of the City, with a new logo and new website (www.eastpointcity.org)

Mayor Peters addressed the adversity the City has endured, but indicated a new day has come. "Last year, I told you that East Point was on the rise. We had much rebuilding to do ..." Mayor Peters stated. "Georgia has had its share of natural disasters, but they aren't the only thing that can bring a city to its knees. A tarnished image, economic uncertainty, social unrest, chronic chaos, lack of vision and poor leadership can be just as damaging to a city's ability to grow and thrive. Today, we are soaring and I am happy to share the foundations we have put into place to overcome our history ..." To view the entire text of Mayor Peters' State of the City Address, visit "Newsroom" at www.eastpointcity.org.



Detective Ebony Johnson



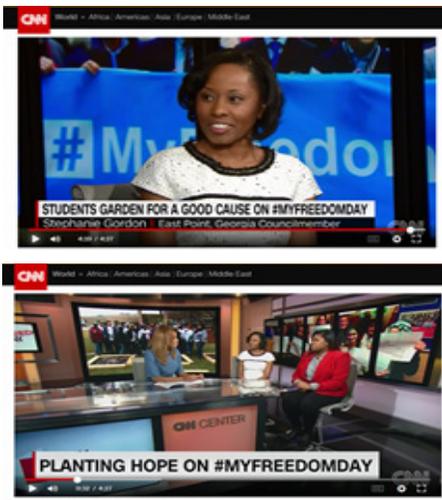
Firefighter/PIO Renita Shelton

ATLANTA AIRPORT ROTARY CLUB HONORS EAST POINT PERSONS OF THE YEAR

The Atlanta Airport Rotary Club honored East Point Police Detective Ebony Johnson as Police Officer of the Year, and Renita Shelton as Firefighter of the Year. Detective Johnson was bestowed the covenant honor for her dedication, passion and persistence in solving a hit and run fatal accident in July 2016 which led to an arrest. Shelton serves as Public Information Officer for the East Point Fire Department, and the City as well. She was awarded the honor for various capacities she's served in with the Department, and for her knowledge, skills and background of 23 plus years in television and communications.

EAST POINT UNVEILS NEW LOGO AND WEBSITE

The City of East Point unveiled a new website and a new logo in March as part of a comprehensive rebranding initiative. The new logo, a lucid design with bold lettering, is a break from the former emblem. The website has also been transformed with full screen high-def. revolving images of various aspects of East Point on the landing page, starting with a scenic view of the reservoir that the city owns at Sweetwater Creek Park. The new logo and website are insignias of a new approach, and renewed sense of civic pride as East Point continues to improve its quality and service delivery. Visit www.eastpointcity.org



RAISING AWARENESS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking, also referred to as sex trafficking, is a modern day form of slavery that has become one of the fastest growing criminal activities in the United States. The F.B.I. named Atlanta among 14 U.S. cities with the highest levels of sex trafficking of children. On March 14, 2017 Councilmember Stephanie Gordon, Ward D, in partnership with Tri-Cities High School, presented a film screening and panel discussion on the topic of Human Trafficking at the Jefferson Park Recreation Center. It was part of a global effort to raise awareness in observance of the CNN Freedom Project's student initiative #MyFreedomDay.

Earlier in the day Councilmember Gordon joined students at Tri-Cities High School to plant a Garden in recognition of Human Trafficking Victims. Gordon spoke with CNN about the significance of the garden and its name. View the interview at www.eastpointcity.org and click "Newsroom."



VISION DRIVES STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

Department Heads and their deputy assistants recently participated in a Strategic Management Planning Workshop, organized by the City Manager's Office, to ensure the City is working to make East Point's Strategic Vision Statement a reality. Mayor Peters, Councilmembers and Staff developed the strategic vision declaration at a Management Planning Retreat in 2015. The vision statement is: "The City of East Point will be the most sought after, safe and diverse community that offers small city charm with big city amenities that is affordable, accessible and connected to endless opportunities to learn, live, work and play." The vision statement guides existing and newly developed focus areas to track performance measures.



CHALLENGING YOUNG MINDS

Assistant City Attorney Chad Alexis coached four students of the Fulton Leadership Academy in East Point to victory in the 7th Annual Young Litigators Moot Court Competition. The debate was held at the Fulton County Government Center in Atlanta last month. Together they took the prize for "Best Overall Team," and Best Brief." Judging the competition were a host of highly acclaimed judges and lawyers. Pictured left to right: Atty. Chad Alexis, Alake Jacob, Rasheed Muhammad, Kolby Lewis and Nasir Muhammad.