

OUR TOWN HALL PANELISTS



Monica Pearson has led a distinguished career in journalism at WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia, as the anchor of Channel 2 Action News at five, six and eleven o'clock. She has received over 28 Emmy Awards as well as other awards for her reporting and her "Closeups" segments. She is also a humanitarian who assists in charitable, non-profit, and community causes. Pearson pursued and obtained her B.S. degree in English from the University of Louisville. She also participated in the Summer Program for Minority Groups at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in New York City. Before joining WSB-TV Channel 2, Pearson worked in public relations, as a news anchor, and as a print reporter. She began her career as the first African American and the first female to anchor a daily evening newscast in Atlanta at WSB-TV in 1975. Pearson is a mother and resides in Atlanta with her mother and husband.



Interim Chief Bryant began his career with the Atlanta Police Department in 1988. He rose from Police Officer to Assistant Chief before retiring in April 2019, when he became the Interim Chief of the Atlanta City Detention Center. He was appointed as APD's Interim Chief of Police in June 2020. Chief Bryant is focused on reducing violent crimes, taking guns off the streets and bridging the gap between police and community. He is committed to advancing APD's progress as it relates to reform, training and building trust in the diverse communities that are the fabric of the City of Atlanta. He believes APD must be a community-focused law enforcement agency that practices equal treatment and respect for all, while ensuring that public safety is enhanced. He believes the APD must pro-actively meet the complex demands of a diverse, progressive urban city through implementation of continual training. Interim Chief Bryant holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia State and a Master's degree in Administration. He is an active member of numerous law enforcement organizations.



James Conroy is the Chief of Police for the Roswell Police Department. He was selected for this position following a nationwide search and began serving the City of Roswell on July 29, 2019. Before joining the Roswell Police Department, Chief Conroy grew up in DeKalb County, and served the DeKalb County Police Department retiring in 2019 with 30 years of service. He served as the DeKalb County Chief of Police for the last five and one half years. Under his leadership, DeKalb County experienced a significant reduction in overall crime and he led efforts to increase public trust and overall transparency of the department by implementing body worn cameras and enhancing public access to crime data. Chief Conroy holds a Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice Administration -Columbia Southern University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Executive Institute; the Southern Police Institute; and other prestigious law enforcement training courses.



District Attorney Joyette Holmes is a native of Valdosta, Georgia. She is a graduate of The University of Georgia and The University of Baltimore School of Law. Prior to beginning her role as the District Attorney for the Cobb Judicial Circuit, Joyette served the citizens of Cobb County as the elected Chief Magistrate Judge, as an Assistant District Attorney, and as Assistant Solicitor General. She also operated The Law Office of Joyette Holmes in Cobb County. Joyette is a member of Rotary, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Cobb County NAACP. She serves on the boards of MUST Ministries, the Cobb Community Foundation, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, and the Davis Direction Foundation. In January, Joyette was honored with the Marietta Daily Journal's 2019 Cobb County Citizen of the Year Award. She also received the BUY-Cobb Justice Robert Benham Award, honored with the 2019 Thurgood Marshall Award by the Cobb Ministerial Alliance, and named as a Woman of Achievement and Thurgood Marshall Award winner for the Cobb County NAACP. She is married to Cobb native Bridges Holmes and they have two daughters.



BJay Pak is the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. He was nominated by President Trump on July 21, 2017 and was confirmed by the Senate on September 28, 2017. From 2002 to 2008, he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the office that he now leads. Previously, he was in private practice representing clients in high stakes civil litigation and in criminal investigations. BJay also served as a State Representative in the Georgia General Assembly from January 2011 to January 2017, where he was a Deputy Majority Whip, and Vice Chairman of the House Judiciary Non-civil committee. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois College of Law, and is also a CPA. He and his wife, Sandra, have 3 beautiful daughters and currently live in Lilburn, Georgia.



James is a native of Riverdale, Georgia and an alumnus of Georgia Southern University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Religious Studies. He also is an 8-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, having served as an Intelligence Analyst. Woodall is a minister of the gospel and is currently enrolled at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) pursuing a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) through the Morehouse School of Religion. He is an Associate Minister at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Marietta. He is a Silver-Life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He has served as its State President of the Georgia Youth & College Division, Vice President of its Bulloch County Branch and State Chairman of the Young Adults Committee. He graduated in December 2018 as an inaugural member of the Next Gen Program, a national NAACP leadership co-hort. He currently serves as the State President of the Georgia NAACP. In these days of challenge and adversity, he believes in the beauty of this moment to make America a better nation.