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Clayton County Board of Commissioners



PRESS RELEASE

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CLAYTON COUNTY HONORS LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

A special church service will salute Clayton County and the city of Atlanta Police Officers

Jonesboro - Clayton County Chairman, Eldrin Bell and Divine Faith Ministries International Church Senior Pastor, Pastor Donald E. Battle, will honor area law enforcement personnel in a special ceremony on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at Divine Faith Ministries. The public is invited to attend the Law Enforcement Day program that will take place during the church's 11:00am worship service. Divine Faith is located at 9800 Tara Boulevard, Jonesboro.

The special Law Day service is dedicated to all of Clayton County and city of Atlanta's law enforcement personnel. It will include a special presentation to **Clayton County Police Chief, Greg Porter; Clayton County Sheriff, Kem A. Kimbrough; and Atlanta's Police Chief, George N. Turner.**

Chairman Bell began and ended his successful law enforcement career with the Atlanta Police Department (APD) while Pastor Battle began his career in law enforcement in Savannah, GA, and completed his public safety career with the Atlanta Police Department; both public servants later established themselves as Clayton County community leaders. While each also possesses, first-hand knowledge of the dangers associated with a career in public safety along with what it truly meant to uphold the oath to protect and serve.

"My career as a police officer spans over three decades. I have many fond memories with the Atlanta Police Department. I also recall the dangers associated with the job and the many times that I put my life on the line for the safety of the community", said Bell. "However, these are somewhat different times and it is important even more so now, than in my days as an officer, for our new leaders to connect with the community, rekindle their presence within the neighborhoods and entrench themselves in the community at large, as a means of crime prevention. Over the years, we have come to know in America, that we cannot simply incarcerate those who break the law as the solution. We must now look to prevention and education as alternative ways to help combat crime. Those two components play very key roles in today's law enforcement, just as key as our teachers in the schools and our preachers in the churches."

Pastor Donald E. Battle spent fifteen (15) years in law enforcement before receiving his calling to serve the Lord. "I know it may seem strange to some that I moved from a career with the APD to a career as Pastor, but it really isn't that strange at all," said Battle. "I am still offering my assistance to protect and serve the people, as well as helping to improve their quality of life. However, this time I have an even greater power on my side, one that is almighty and everlasting!" said Pastor Battle.