

In our 93<sup>rd</sup> Year of Service to  
Youth & the Community

[www.birmingham.amoptimists.org](http://www.birmingham.amoptimists.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub)  
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# Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the  
Alabama-Mississippi District  
July 2021

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
On Zoom  
1:00 PM

## Respect for Law Program, July 8, 1:00 pm on Zoom

Respect for Law Chair Adrienne Pearson and Co-Chair Jacqueline Holder will conduct our annual Respect for Law Program. Our guest speaker will be Ken Foreman, Public Safety Director of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District.

Director Foreman is a true professional with a passion to serve others. As Public Safety Director of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District, he has been instrumental in the safety and security of the communities within the Housing Authority.

Prior to coming to Birmingham, Director Foreman completed his federal career in Detroit, Michigan as a Deputy United States Marshal Criminal Investigator-Senior Inspector. Holding a Top-Secret Clearance, he oversaw 5 cities to include Detroit, Flint, Bay City, Ann Arbor, and Port Huron. This placed the protection and security of Federal Judges, Chief Justices, Federal Courts, and High Threat Trial Proceeding under his watchful eye. He was dubbed as the glue that held everything together.

While raising a family of three with his wife Pauline, he was determined to be a good example to his children by earning his college degree; an associate in Criminal Justice Administration and a Bachelors in Family Life Education.

Director Foreman has held many titles to include; U.S. Army Communications Specialist, State and Federal Corrections Officer, Veteran Affairs Police Officer, Minister and Pastor but the ones dearest to his heart are Husband, Dad, Papa, and Servant.

He attributes his success to his faith in God, his loving wife, and the prayers of those who supported him.

He believes that a problem is just an opportunity for a solution.

The Club will be honoring the 13 officers of the Birmingham Police Department's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Division. The purpose of the CSP is to increase and enhance the safety, security, and welfare of residents in the Birmingham Housing Authority District. As part of the Birmingham Police Department's goal of building safe and secure communities, CSP has implemented "Safe Passage."

One of the programs included in the "Safe Passage" Program is the "Walking School Bus" Program. Children in the housing developments normally walk the same route to school or to the bus stop. Safe Passage provides a secure route to and from their school. Parental involvement in this segment of the program is key. Parents and other volunteers (no less than two per six children) will accompany the children to school, following a specifically planned, safe and secure route. The route will start with the child living the farthest from school. The Walking School Bus will pick up children along the designated routes as it proceeds to the school or bus stop. Once the walking school bus arrives at school, the children will be transferred to the parent/school patrol who will make sure the children are taken directly to the appropriate school room. At the end of the school day, this routine is done in reverse, where the parents/school patrol ensure children are transported and safely board the walking school bus.

Please make plans to attend on Zoom!!

## June 10, 1:00 pm Program

Our guest speaker was **Blake Hall**, Dean of Students for **Build UP Ensley**, an early-college workforce development high school, equipping youth and communities to determine their own future. They provide low-income youth with career-ready skills through paid apprenticeships with industry-aligned secondary and postsecondary academic coursework, leading them to become educated, credentialed, and empowered civic leaders, professionals, homeowners and landlords.

For more information about Build Up Birmingham and Build Up Ensley, please click on each of the following links:

[Build Up Birmingham](http://www.buildup.birmingham.org)

[www.buildup.work](http://www.buildup.work)

<https://www.matteroffact.tv/building-student-success-by-paying-them-to-go-to-class-teaching-trade/>



Guest Speaker – Blake Hall



Build Up worksite

## MEMBER NEWS

**July Birthdays: 19<sup>th</sup> – Angene Coleman; Anniversaries: 4<sup>th</sup> – Jerry & Margie Argo, 26<sup>th</sup> - Judy & Ron Taylor**  
Hope you enjoy your special day!

**Please note: If your birthday and/or anniversary was not included, please email the dates to Nancy Ryan at [nryan95@charter.net](mailto:nryan95@charter.net), so they can be added to the list!!**