



## Clarkston Police Begins Utilizing Body Cameras

By Lt. Harry Hess

**B**ody cameras are now standard issued devices for Clarkston Police Department officers. To accommodate the addition of these body cameras, CPD uniforms were modified. CPD uniforms now consists of an outer body armor carrier which has a small eyelet hole in the chest area. Behind this eyelet is the Utility Body Worn Camera. Clarkston Police Officers were issued body cameras after completing training on April 25, 2017 and April 27, 2017. All of the trained CPD officers in the Uniform Patrol Division and Criminal Investigations Division have been equipped and have already started utilizing these body cameras.

The purpose for wearing body cameras is to better document incidents and interactions with citizens, to protect officers and citizens more effectively, and to aid and assist with CPD training. Data gathered from the devices are stored and cannot be edited by any of the officers.

These body cameras work in conjunction with the existing cameras in all of the Clarkston Police Department's patrol vehicles. Body cameras are automatically activated by the in-car camera system, via the wrist worn remote issued to officers, with an internal sensor in the body camera when an officer gets into a struggle or begins to run. The final way the camera will automatically activate is if an officer goes to the ground for a pre-set amount of time. If an officer is down, an alert is sent to all devices worn by other officers, with the name of the fallen officer, location of that officer and with optional turn by turn driving directions.

The body cameras are not just video recording devices. They can also be used to take still photos of crime scenes, capture still photos from videos taken, used as an audio recording device, and to take 360 degree crime scene photos which can be used with any virtual reality goggles to visualize crime scenes.

Officers can create Be on the Lookout (BOLO) messages and send these in-camera alerts to other officers. Officer-to-officer messages are also enabled by body cameras usage. CPD body cameras are also equipped with GPS and mapping software pinpointing exact locations of officers wearing them.

With the installation and usage of body cameras, the CPD continues to implement progressive ways to secure and provide greater scopes of public and community safety.






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# Clarkston City Council Column

*“Bringing Awareness of Clarkston City Council Policies, Actions, Civic & Community Engagement”*

By Terry Sanders

## @Tell Me A Story! Cultural, Literacy, and Language Festival



*(L-R) City Councilwoman Beverly Burks and Tell Me A Story! Festival organizer Roberta Malavenda address Cultural, Literacy, and Language Festival attendees and participants*

*(2nd Person L-R) City Councilman Dean Moore gets in on the festivities at the Fifth Annual Clarkston Tell Me A Story! Festival with event organizers, vendors, participants and attendees at the Clarkston Community Center*

*City Councilwoman Beverly Burks interacts with children, parents and participants attending the Clarkston Fifth Annual Tell Me A Story! Cultural, Literacy, and Language Festival*

City of Clarkston Council members, Beverly Burks and Dean Moore attended and participated in Clarkston’s Fifth Annual Tell Me A Story! Cultural, Literacy, and Language Festival, held on May 13, 2017, at the Clarkston Community Center, and sponsored by the Clarkston Early Learning Network.

This year’s festival was attended by more than 300 people, with over 20 language and literacy partners, plus three local caterers (new this year), and a festival favorite, Kona Ice. Children and adults alike enjoyed face painting as well as henna designs by Adar!

The storytellers were the best ever, encouraging children of all ages to participate in stories and music from around the world “on stage” in Angora Hall. Our partners worked non-stop to engage children and their families in fun and learning arts and literacy activities which took place in every room and in the hallways of the Clarkston Community Center.

Our thanks to Habitat for Humanity DeKalb and Newell Rubbermaid for the beautiful book bags, to the Mayors Summer Reading program, DREAM, DeKalb Friends of the Library, and Half Price Books for the books. The book giveaway (close to 1,000 books ranging from infant/toddler board books to chapter books) was one of the highlights of this year’s festival.

And thanks to the Clarkston Community Center for hosting the festival, and to the City of Clarkston, New American Pathways and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for funding.

## Makes Historic Guest Appearance on Clarkston Speaks



Councilman Awet Eyasu, on May 19, 2017, became the first member of the Clarkston City Council to make a guest appearance on the city’s radio show, produced in partnership with Sagal Radio, episode, “Clarkston Speaks, Milam Park Pool Opening & Party”.

He made “Clarkston Speaks” history again, by also being the show’s first call-in guest. Congratulations, and thank you Councilman Eyasu for making history, twice, on Clarkston Speaks.

## Councilman Dean Moore @City Council Meeting, New Americans Day at the Capitol, Coffee with a Cop in Clarkston



*(L-R) City Councilman Dean Moore has been busy executing his council duties in awarding the Clarkston Loves Refugees Day Proclamation to representatives of immigrants Clarkston’s refugee communities.*



*Attending the New Americans Day at the Georgia State Capitol, Councilman Dean Moore is front and center to the right of Gov. Nathan Deal in celebration of and refugees becoming citizens of the United States.*



*During the New American Pathways Coffee with a Cop event, Councilman Dean Moore gets in on a photo op with City of Clarkston Police Chief, Christine Hudson, Asst. Chief, Thadius Brown and Lt. Harry Hess; and with event organizers and attendees.*

*Continued on page 4*

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## Clarkston City Council Column Cont'd

### Getting it done!



**Councilman  
Jamie Carroll**

**S**idewalk Cafes are now allowed in the city of Clarkston thanks to Councilman Jamie Carroll. Councilman Carroll championed the successful passing of Ordinance 409 by the City Council on June 6, 2017.

The purpose and scope of Ordinance 409 reads, “The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the authorization and regulation of sidewalk cafes as operated by qualified and licensed businesses on public sidewalks with the City. This ordinance shall not apply to any patio or other outdoor seating areas located on private property.”

### For the Love and Safety of Pets...

**C**ity Councilwoman Beverly Burks and Councilman Mario Williams both attended and participated in the inaugural City of Clarkston Pet Wellness Day event. More than 54 pets were vaccinated. Both council members, Burks and Williams, donated 25 microchips to local Clarkston residents.



This event, according to Councilwoman Burks, allows Clarkston City Council an educational opportunity to facilitate legislating responsibly.

*“I always like to educate before I legislate,” said Burks. “We want to make sure, with whatever ordinances we have or put in place, that we have the right ones made with experts. We don’t want to be reactionary after a bite. We do need to be proactive and find out what’s the best thing for our community and educate our neighbors on what to do.”*

### A (Guest) Host is Born...

**C**ity Councilwoman Beverly Burks takes the Guest Host seat for two episodes, on the same day, of the city produced radio program, Clarkston Speaks. Filling in for regular host, Shawanna Qawiy, Councilwoman Burks orchestrated interviews and the dissemination of information on episodes, “Clarkston Speaks, Building Civility & Compassion” and “Clarkston Speaks, Summer Youth Programs”.

Way to go Councilwoman Burks in taking the mic for the first time, twice!



*(L-R), Clarkston Speaks Guest Host and Clarkston City Councilwoman, Beverly Burks, welcomes guests Bob Thompson, Leanne Rubenstein and Gunawork Wondimneh with Compassion Atlanta, and Ellen Diehl, 2nd Vice Chair, DeKalb County Republican Party, to discuss “Building Civility & Compassion”.*



*(First Row) L-R, Beverly Burks, Guest Host and Clarkston City Council Member; Cindy Bowden, Executive Director, Clarkston Community Center; Claudia Aguilar Rubalcava, Co-Pastor, Hope is Happening, (Second Row) L-R, Josh Davis, Director, Proskunee School of the Arts, and Doug Friesema, Co-Pastor, Hope is Happening, tell listeners about Summer Youth Programs in the city of Clarkston for 2017.*

## City of Clarkston Partners with Positive Growth to Deliver Another Minority Youth Violence Prevention Program

By Terry Sanders



*Life Skills Coping Program instructor, Stephen G. Murray, a former Dade County Law Enforcement Officer, discuss and enacts Minority Youth Violence Prevention topics and strategies with Positive Growth, Inc. Summer Camp participants.*



*Positive Growth, Inc. Advisor and Life Skills Coping Instructor, Kozman Stroman, addresses Boys Group Home residents to impart Minority Youth Violence Prevention tactics and practices.*

**R**ecognizing the need to expand its reach and scope in efforts to tackle Minority Youth Violence Prevention (MYVP), the City of Clarkston added a new partner, Positive Growth, a local boys group home and Life Skills Coping (LSCP) summer program facilitator, to its MYVP partnerships.

“While the Dare2BeAware program, facilitated through the city’s partnership with the Clarkston Community Center, is successful, the City of Clarkston wanted to reach more of the MYVP target participants; which are African-American males between the ages of 10-18 years of age,” said Keith Barker, City Manager, City of Clarkston. “Partnering with Positive Growth gives the city an opportunity to sponsor another program with participants closely aligned with MYVP’s required and preferred audience.”

The Life Coping Skills Program (LCSP), is an intervention and violence prevention program specializing in helping children, adolescents and young adults find the path that leads to a successful and positive life. This program provides a supervised structured environment combining skill building, counseling, positive reinforcement and goal planning. Positive Growth’s is designed to treat each participant as an individual, and offer support through a community based setting.

Positive Growth’s qualified and vetted instructors, will teach, train, research and instruct participants on Minority Youth Violence Prevention topics via its Life Skills Coping Program (LSCP) at both of its locations, the group home and Education Center. Positive Growth’s LSCP curriculum will be delivered, simultaneously to group home residents and to LSCP summer camp participants.

Over a 10-week span, PG will delve into relevant and pertinent topics germane to the Minority Youth Violence Prevention Program requirements and execution. These topics include, but are not limited to, Gun Violence, Gang Violence, Pro-Social Skills, Anger Management and Conflict Resolution, Bullying, Self-Harming Behaviors/Suicide and The Connection Between Alcohol, Drugs, and Violence.

“The Life Coping Skills Program will not only teach the participants how to use non-violence skills in their personal lives, but participants will be encouraged to speak out against community violence, while developing communication and leadership skills. During each session participants, will be directed to imagine a non-violent Clarkston Community,” said Joseph Arnold, CEO & Director, Positive Growth, Inc.

Each week, 15 minutes will be devoted to developing projects based on non-violent activities that can be implemented in the Clarkston community. The projects will link personal empowerment to create safer communities, while affording LSCP participants opportunities to offer resolutions to problems identified in Clarkston communities, to get involved, and to take appropriate and applicable action. During these “brain storming” sessions the participants will be given time to develop plans that promote the power of positive change focused on violence prevention. At the end of the Life Coping Skills Program the proposed projects will be submitted to the City of Clarkston.

## Clarkston Speaks, Thank You for Listening!

By Terry Sanders

On April 14, 2017, the first production of the City of Clarkston's serial radio show, Clarkston Speaks, debuted on the Worldwide Web with its recorded posting on Sagal Radio's website. And on April 15, 2017, at 7:00PM Clarkston Speaks hit the broadcast airwaves of WATB, 1420 AM.

"Clarkston Speaks adds another platform on which the City of Clarkston can and will foster a greater commitment to civic and community engagement; and to bring and increase awareness of relevant topics being discussed on local, national and global stages", said Terry Sanders, Creator, Producer, and Technical Director for Clarkston Speaks.

Not shying away from controversial topics, the show has already tackled civility and compassion in the political realm in the "Clarkston Speaks, Building Civility & Compassion" episode, immigration and deportation rights are detailed in an episode entitled "Clarkston Speaks, Know Your (Immigration & Deportation) Rights", and in efforts to address and curtail youth violence, "Clarkston Speaks, Minority Youth Violence & Prevention" episode was produced.

The radio program has also posted and aired lighter fare in promoting local events and programs; Clarkston Cultural Festival, Tell Me A Story Festival, Clarkston's Car Show, Milam Park Pool Opening & Party and Summer Youth Programs offered and provided by faith based and community organizations in the city of Clarkston.

Guests for episodes of Clarkston Speaks have included Clarkston City Councilman Awet Eyasu, Clarkston City Manager Keith Barker, Ellen Diehl 2nd Vice Chair, DeKalb County Republican (GOP) Party, Shirley Reed a local Immigrations Attorney, Lt. Harry Hess and Sgt. Chris Manos, Clarkston Police Department, Cindy Bowden, Executive Director, Clarkston Community Center and Joseph Arnold, CEO & Director, Positive Growth, Inc.

"Not only does this program give the city tangible returns on investment with Sagal Radio, and not only does it put Clarkston

at the table, but it allows Clarkston to set the table, choose the menu of topics and select the dinner party guests to provide the keynote discussion," said Keith Barker, Clarkston City Manager. "We, the City of Clarkston, are excited about this opportunity to lend a voice to many of the issues and concerns of citizens living and working in or visiting the city of Clarkston."

Tapping into internal City of Clarkston expertise and talent, Barker has not only made subject matter expert guest appearances on Clarkston Speaks, but he and City Councilwoman Beverly Burks,

have also served as guest hosts. Pulling double duty, Shawanna Qawiy is the program's regular host, in addition to being the City of Clarkston's Planning & Development Manager.

Future plans for this serial program produced in and by the "Smallest City with the Biggest Heart", include podcasts, expanding audience and accessibility and continuing to produce timely, relevant, informative and entertaining episodes of Clarkston Speaks.

Thank you for listening!



*Clarkston Speaks host (Standing, L-R) Shawanna Qawiy, welcomes guests Brandi Whitney, Minority Youth Violence Prevention Program Managing Coordinator for the DeKalb County Board of Health, (Seated, L-R) Ava Morton, Manager, Positive Growth, Inc., Clarkston Police Sgt. Chris Manos, and Clarkston Community Center Program Director, Justine O'Kello, into the Sagal Radio studio to discuss and increase awareness of Minority Youth Violence Prevention programs, strategies and tactics in Clarkston and DeKalb County.*



*"Doing Business in Clarkston & DeKalb County was the topic of discussion among guests, (Seated, L-R) Rapid Tax Accounting & Income Tax Services Owner, Leake Malde, Holt Darns, Part-Owner and Manager of Exit 40 Café, Ray Gilley, President of Decide DeKalb, Anna Henderson, Owner of HA Office 515, Inc. and Past President of Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce, (Standing, L-R) Clarkston Speaks host, Shawanna Qawiy, Barak Gibson a Georgia Greater Black Chamber of Commerce Board Member and Keith Barker, City Manager for the City of Clarkston.*

## Mural

On Saturday, May 20, scores of Clarkston residents led by award-winning artist and Clarkston resident,

Shannon Willow, picked up paint brushes and worked side-by-side, to complete the town's newest work of public art. For the past year, Shannon Willow has worked closely with the Clarkston City Council, local businesses and stakeholders to secure a particular exterior wall space and to raise the funds to produce the Human Family Forest Mural.



Extending 1440 square feet across the wall of The Adams Center at 4170 E. Ponce de Leon Ave, the Human Family

Forest Mural will be the City's largest piece of public art. As she has with her four previous public art mural projects, Willow has engaged the local community in the process of writing the words for the trees and painting the mural itself.

"This mural is a completely customized participatory creative experience that is all-inclusive for the community of Clarkston," says Willow. "Having residents gather to paint this sort of mural on this scale is an innovative way to create more interconnectedness within our greater community. My vision with this mural is to engage 200 people in the art making process," says Willow. "In working with the people, I am able to share the interconnection we have to each other, our environment and all living things. Through art, let us protect, celebrate and honor the diversity and biodiversity of our planet."

To create the Human Family Forest Mural, Willow began by producing a detailed scale drawing. Then, over the course of five weeks, she painted the large scale painting of the same image directly onto the outdoor wall at the Adams Center in downtown Clarkston. She then invited community to paint portions of the mural with brightly colored paints provided by the artist. Willow's signature work and design for this mural features five "word trees" representing five cornerstone elements of a healthy community. 1) health and well-being, 2) our human interconnection to the natural world and its life-giving resources, 3) Clarkston's profound diversity (using words in various

global languages), 4) an all-inclusive concept of spirituality and religion, and 5) the value of early learning.

"Earth energy is a powerful inspiration in my art and my life," says Willow. "This energy is reflected in every aspect of my work. In the Clarkston Human Family Forest Mural, the image of a tree serves as a powerful metaphor as to what we are rooted in and how we show up in the world. In this particular public artwork, trees serve as a visual metaphor of our core values as a community. Each tree trunk includes words that inspire, encourage, uplift and unite the more than seven thousand people who share our growing Clarkston community. My goal for this mural is that it remind all of us to stay rooted in a shared vision of greater interconnectedness and inclusion. I hope residents feel a connection with each other and nature every time they pass the completed mural. We all share the same water, the same air — that oneness, that togetherness in nature and in community. This Human Family Forest Mural says, we are all connected," exclaims Willow.

Clarkston Mayor, Ted Terry, is a major supporter of Willow's work. "The City of Clarkston is very proud to sponsor Shannon's latest participatory art project here," says Mayor Terry. "The Clarkston Human Family

Forest mural demonstrates the City's ongoing commitment to using large, participatory public art projects as a powerful tool for building community. This mural is a perfect example of a public art initiative that directly engages our young people while also connecting residents of all ages and very diverse backgrounds in a beautifully creative manner."

"Clarkston is a community where possibilities grow!" boasts Mayor Terry. "And thanks to artists like Shannon Willow, our city now has a burgeoning artistic mindset. I firmly believe this perspective has been a real factor in our recent economic growth. We're thrilled that art and culture are thriving right here in the most ethnically diverse square mile in America."

Since she moved to Clarkston in 2007, Shannon Willow has played a key role in introducing the concept of Public Art to the City of Clarkston. According to Mayor Terry, "For several years, our residents watched larger cities develop exciting public art programs and install artist-designed murals in community spaces.

Then, Shannon came on the scene here with her dynamic leadership skills and creative, community building style of art and things began to happen."

Mayor Terry added that, "As an artist, Shannon, not only creates amazingly vibrant nature scenes, but she also works hard to engage all ages and sectors of the Clarkston community to help create the kind of public art that we can all take pride in."

Clarkston city councilwoman Beverly Burks said it's important to bring the community together through an inclusive project.

"This is [the public's] mural," Burks said. "It embodies who we are, it has the words of who we are as the city of Clarkston. 'Engaging,' 'relationships,' 'collaboration,'—all those things are very important. We are able to put who we are in words and we have a few words that are from other countries."

Over the past five years, Willow and her Clarkston community have created four other public murals: Sustainability Mural (2012) Decatur Pediatrics



(50 community members participated) Friendship Value Tree (2013)

Clarkston Community Center Activity Field (30 students participated) Diversity Mural (2014) was installed on the

Clarkston Community Center (100 community members participated) Namaste Tree (2015) Indian Creek Elementary

School. (students participated)

With the Clarkston Human Family Forest, Willow hopes to create something beautiful for the community that represents the well-being, interconnectedness, growth and diversity of Clarkston. As a professional artist and facilitator for corporations and organizations, Willow has seen how mural-based team building breaks down barriers and quickly establishes lasting bonds between participants.

"Painting murals together in groups fosters fun and close collaboration," says Willow. "It also generates the high energy for ongoing social and economic development. At its core, public art and mural making is a catalyst for positive change."

Mayor Terry says, "The latest installment in Clarkston's public art initiative by Shannon Willow Art is already mesmerizing visitors to our town center. Taking an otherwise dull blank brick wall and transforming it into a beautiful bucolic scene of nature, wildlife and human expression. Clarkston will benefit economically from this extraordinary public art piece. The city is already looking forward to the next one."





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