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**Georgia's Female Elected Officials Spotlighted During Legislative Breakfast
Advocacy & Public Policy Work of The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. Featured During Event**

(Atlanta, GA) December 10, 2019 -Known for its advocacy for issues affecting women and children in Atlanta, The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. (JLA) brought female elected officials together for the organization's legislative breakfast. Sponsored by the Commerce Club of Atlanta on November 19, 2019, the event highlighted the 103-year-old nonprofit's advocacy efforts.

JLA, is widely known locally for its advocacy work, was one of the first organizations to push for [support for tougher human-trafficking laws more than a decade ago](#). During the breakfast, which featured state legislators and members of the Atlanta City Council, both Georgia Representative Deborah Silcox (R - District 52) and youthSpark Executive Director Jennifer Swain addressed attendees. Guests, including state Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, State Representative "Able" Mable Thomas, and Atlanta City Council members Jennifer Ide and Cleta Winslow, learned about the JLA's advocacy efforts for women and children in the city of Atlanta and in the wider state of Georgia.

State Rep. Silcox, a JLA member, spoke about how receiving JLA's community action education and volunteer training prepared her to run for a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives. Rep. Silcox also spoke of how the JLA's advocacy efforts affects Atlanta communities, stating, "It is critical for JLA members and legislators to be in one room because everyone gets to see the consequences of passing legislation. That's what JLA is essentially about - making a big difference in our community."

Keynote speaker, Jennifer Swain, shared details behind the strong partnership between JLA and youthSpark's to combat sex trafficking. Specifically, Swain acknowledged JLA's advocacy with helping to pass the 2015 Safe Harbor Act. The law extends the statute of limitations for child sex trafficking victims from the age of 23 to the age of 25. Swain acknowledged JLA for being "great seed planters" in getting laws passed to combat human trafficking in Atlanta through advocacy and education.

The JLA has a long history of working directly with local, regional, and state governments to advocate on policies in Georgia. JLA President Andrea N. Smith says, "Education and sharing resources are imperative to making impactful changes in the lives of women and children in Georgia. Making strides against the issues of generational poverty, early childhood education and human trafficking and sexual exploitation is only possible through trained advocates working with community leaders and elected officials." Currently, JLA tracks policy initiatives and advocates on policies that improve the lives of women and children at risk, or support one of the JLA's three issues: Commercial Sexual Exploitation/Human Trafficking, Early Childhood Education and Generational Poverty. The JLA regularly hosts advocacy breakfasts for business and community leaders to better understand our complex issues,

creates and promotes public awareness campaigns, and holds an annual JLA Capitol Day. To learn more about the JLA's advocacy efforts, visit jlatlanta.org.

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ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ATLANTA, INC.

The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. (JLA) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information, visit www.jlatlanta.org or call 404-261-7799.