

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

May 11, 2023

Virtual and Call-in Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Willie C. Bolton
Mr. Richard Hyde
Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie
Chief Leonard "Dee" Meadows
Commissioner Michael Nail
Commissioner Tyrone Oliver
Mr. Samir J. Patel
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief Stacey Cotton
Mr. Roy H. Fickling
Chief Janet L. Moon
Mr. Billy New

OTHERS:

Ms. Deborah Gore, Attorney General's Office
Mrs. Jennifer Pendarvis, Board Liaison
Commissioner Christopher C. Wright, Department of Public Safety
Major Robert Balkcom, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Steve Harrison, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Rusty Harrelson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Andrew Montgomery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Stanley Stalnaker, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Chris Rodewolt, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lieutenant Jonathon Huff, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
SFC Richard Sikes, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Director Michael Register, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Asst. Director Chris Hosey, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Dep. Director Rhonda Westbrook, Georgia Bureau of Investigation/GCIC
SAC Lindsay Smith, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
ASAC Danielle O'Connor, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Lorri Smith, Georgia Department of Public Safety
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Georgia Department of Public Safety
Ms. Clare McGuire, Georgia Department of Public Safety
Ms. Kelly Ward, Georgia Department of Public Safety
Ms. Kaycee Larson, Georgia Department of Public Safety
Mr. Jacob Harmon, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Connie Buck, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Machel Jones, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Cody Pyle, Office of Planning and Budget

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 11, 2023 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Chief Craig Tully led the group in a special prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced the guests in the room: Georgia Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge in Statesboro, Lindsay Smith and Danielle O'Conner, the Assistant Special Agent in Charge in Statesboro; Georgia State Patrol Captain Chris Rodewolt and SFC Richard Sikes.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the April 13, 2023 BPS minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the April 13, 2023 minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Willie Bolton and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Charles Sikes spoke about important events during the month of May, such as Police Week; Peace Officers Memorial Day; and Veterans Memorial Day. Mr. Sikes reminded everyone to remember those who have given their lives on behalf of this nation.

Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie was sworn in as Member-At-Large #5 as recommended by the Speaker of the House.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Wright, Georgia Department of Public Safety, announced this will be the last Board meeting virtually or in person in the old DPS headquarters, noting personnel are beginning the move into the new headquarters building on Monday, May 15th with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for the last week of June. Commissioner Wright added the furniture installation at the new building is about 80% complete and there are about 1,000 small punch list items to complete.

Commissioner Wright shared members of the DPS Honor Guard, Motor Unit, and several of the Command Staff will be traveling to Washington D.C. to accompany Trooper Cadet Patrick Dupree's family to participate in the Peace Officers Memorial ceremony honoring him and all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Additionally, Commissioner Wright noted Cadet Dupree was honored on May 5th during the Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

Commissioner Wright reported Motor Carrier Compliance Officer Matthew McKern was seriously injured in an off-duty motorcycle crash in Franklin County this past Sunday afternoon, noting he has some serious injuries and remains on a ventilator as of this morning. Commissioner Wright also shared there was an officer involved shooting in Bryan County involving a Motor Carrier Officer, advising he is resting at home and was very lucky he did not have any serious injuries and no broken bones after being dragged by the suspect vehicle about 250-300 feet.

Regarding the 114th Trooper School, Commissioner Wright stated it is in week 17 of training with 38 Cadets remaining. Commissioner Wright reported 12 of those Cadets were already POST certified and are in field training and will report to Headquarters on July 14th to be sworn in and receive their patrol

vehicles. Commissioner Wright advised the remaining Cadets will go to field training on June 9th. Commissioner Wright shared there are currently 81 conditional offers extended for the 115th Trooper School. Commissioner Wright also reported the 10th Motor Carrier School is in week 4 with 10 Cadets remaining.

Concerning the crime suppression details around the state, Commissioner Wright updated the Board on stats for the month of April, reporting a detail was conducted every weekend in Atlanta that resulted in over 2,500 traffic stops; 59 vehicle pursuits; over 1,600 citations; over 2,100 warnings; 57 DUI arrests; 14 stunt racing arrests; 28 wanted fugitives being apprehended; and 125 vehicles being impounded. Commissioner Wright also reported there were three weekend details in the city of Albany at the request of the Chief that resulted in 702 vehicle stops; 7 pursuits; over 380 citations; 570 warnings; 50 DUI arrests; and 10 wanted fugitives being apprehended. Additionally, Commissioner Wright advised there were two crime suppression details conducted in the city of Thomasville at the request of their Police Chief that resulted in over 200 vehicle stops; 18 DUI arrests; and 4 wanted fugitives being apprehended. Commissioner Wright also reported there were two details conducted in the city of Savannah at the request of their Police Chief that resulted in over 300 vehicle stops; 6 pursuits; over 260 citations; 230 warnings; 46 DUI arrests; and 5 wanted fugitives; and finally Commissioner Wright noted there was one weekend detail in the city of Columbus at the request of the Chief that resulted in 480 traffic stops; 9 vehicle pursuits; 260 citations; 470 warnings; 29 DUI arrests; and 8 fugitives being apprehended.

Commissioner Wright advised the Department has taken possession of the Motor Carrier Compliance tractor trailer that is equipped with 6 simulators that will provide drivers the opportunity to learn how to safely maneuver their vehicles around commercial vehicles, particularly showing people the blind spots that tractor trailer drivers must deal with. Commissioner Wright noted the intent is to take the simulator to schools around the state for young drivers to experience.

Commissioner Wright shared the Department has also taken possession of both DPS communications busses that are available for any local jurisdiction to use in the event of a natural disaster or a special event. The plan is to keep one in the south and one in north Georgia and will be available on short notice to anyone who needs it.

Concerning construction projects, Commissioner Wright reported site work and pouring of the footers at Post 40, Sylvester is occurring; Post 18, Reidsville has been awarded at \$2.2 million; and at Post 13, Tifton, a portion of the carport that has been closed in to provide a south Georgia radio and repair shop is now complete and can begin providing that service to south personnel to keep them from driving all the way to Atlanta.

Director Mike Register, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, provided an update from Region 10 for the Trooper Officer Involved Shooting from January 18th stating the GBI's case file was turned over to the special prosecutor on April 14th. Director Register also shared the DeKalb County ME's office released the autopsy report of Mr. Teran on April 19th, noting the report was released with no redacting and this report communicated the names of the law enforcement officers involved in the shooting, and

since the names were released, the officers' names, DOBs, and addresses were posted on several websites, and additionally, the names have been placed on placards on the sides of trucks that have been driven around the city of Atlanta.

Regarding the Gang Task Force, Director Register updated the Board on two cases they have been working, reporting a 3-year multi-agency investigation by the GTF and the Spalding County Sheriff's Office involving the Rolling 20s Neighborhood Bloods resulted in 78 subjects being indicted on RICO and drug trafficking charges, with 53 being arrested; and also Operation Krack the Ice involved 34 people being indicted by the Spalding County District Attorney's Office on Violations of the Georgia RICO Act, Violations of the Georgia Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act, Trafficking Methamphetamine, and Terroristic Threats. Director Register noted one of the individuals indicted is currently serving a life sentence within the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Director Register reported from January 1st to now, there have been a total of 37 Officer Involved Shootings, indicating we are trending about where we were last year.

Concerning the Legal Division, Director Register stated Assistant Director Hosey and Managing Attorney Lindsay Gardner attended the Attorney General's Anti-Gang Networking meeting at Columbus State University.

At the request of the Oconee Judicial Circuit District Attorney, Director Register advised Managing Attorney Lindsay Gardner was sworn in as a special prosecutor to appear for a death penalty motion in the Royheem Deeds criminal case.

Director Register reported the Legal Division drafted a Gang Task Force Memorandum of Understanding with Macon-Bibb County, successfully securing the first headquarters building dedicated to GTF operations in middle Georgia.

Regarding the Division of Forensic Sciences, Director Register reported they are still working to determine what would be the best case management for the DOFS department. Also, Director Register stated they continue to work with Mercer University on creating a Forensic Pathology track in their medical school and it already as 17 Mercer students signed up as interested.

Director Register stated a MOU is in place allowing the GBI Medical Examiner's Office to reach out to the DeKalb County's ME Office for assistance in the case of mass fatality or overwhelming caseload.

Concerning GCIC, Director Register reported the transition of the Georgia Applicant Print Systems (GAPS) Thales to Fieldprint has been going smoothly.

Regarding the Investigative Division, Director Register shared Inspector Terry Howard is attending the FBI National Academy and will graduate June 8th.

In observance of National Police Week and National Peace Officers Memorial Day, Director Register noted there will be a wreath laying ceremony on May 15th in remembrance of GBI Agents who have lost their lives while serving in the line of duty.

Director Register reported the FBI Office of Partner Engagement released statistics for e-Guardian Dual Routing TTL (threat-to-life) incidents and the GBI GISAC ranked number one out of 28 Acknowledging Agencies.

Director Register reported the Special Agent School is still ongoing with a graduation date of June 23rd with 11 Agents and 7 of those are current Department of Corrections Agents. The next Agent School will start September 24th.

Director Register announced the Bureau's Georgia Cyber Crime Center Special Agent in Charge Steve Foster retired May 1st, after 28 years of service. Additionally, Director Register shared SA Beth Coody was nominated for and won the CJCC Going Above and Beyond to Support Victims of Crime in Georgia Public Safety Award; and Supervisory Intelligence Analyst Meredith Bailey was honored by the Georgia State University Alumni Association as a 40 Under 40 awardee. Director Register noted Lindsay Smith was promoted to SAC of the Region 5 Field Office in Statesboro in April 2023, and Danielle O'Connor was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the same office in May 2023.

Regarding facilities updates, Director Register shared the Region 10 Field Office's security fencing appears to be on schedule; the Investigative Office's lobby access controls have been ordered, but Headquarters, Southwestern, Coastal, Western, and Central Crime Labs lobby access control systems are already operational; the concrete and grass matting installation is scheduled for May 8th and 9th for the Mausoleum; and lastly Director Register reported the Agency is working to build a GBI training storage building.

Director Register noted there have been 4,502 open records requests this fiscal year, and 588 for the month of March. Director Register also noted Crimes Against Persons and Drug Investigations take up a majority of investigative hours; regarding the Crime Lab, Director Register reported there are currently 4,068 consultations or exams conducted, with 390 in March; report turnaround for Forensics, as of March, released in 45 days is at 44% and some of the low numbers are contributed to instrument malfunctions and repairs that need to be made; the report turnaround year-to-date in Forensics released in 45 days is at 45% also. Crime Lab reports processed for March 2020, requested is 6,924, totaled released is 7,384; and finally, the backlog of unworked reports over 30 days is 42,878.

Regarding NCIC Services, Director Register shared the CJIS network uptime has been 100% and messages received were over 90 million. The Sex Offender Registry, right now, has 37,328 in the database and 149 has been added for the month; the Protection Order Registry right now stands at 169,004 and 2,897 records were added this past month; and 45 CJIS Audits were conducted for this month, with 236 for this fiscal year.

Director Register noted on the criminal fingerprint transactions received, year-to-date, the Agency has received 103,626, and these transactions process within 2 hours at 94%; the applicant fingerprint transactions received last month was 44,594, and year-to-date, 362,161, and transactions processed within 24 hours of receipt is at 100%.

Concerning plans and program development, Director Register noted there were 133 individuals trained this past month with 1,214 trained this fiscal year; and regarding the GBI Learning Management System, there were over 2,800 for the month and 17,637 this fiscal year.

Ms. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported as of March 2023 the Training Center has had 236,025 students and is on track to exceed 300,000 this fiscal year.

Ms. Jones noted a basic mandate class at the University of West Georgia will begin on May 15th.

Ms. Jones shared the Fire Academy Division organized a kick-off meeting reviving the Georgia's Fire Fatality Task Force.

Ms. Jones announced the School Resource Officer Training Building is progressing nicely and should be completed by June 5th.

DONATIONS

Ms. Lorri Smith, Georgia Department of Public Safety, requested approval of the following donation:

Fuel for Helicopter and Four (4) Hotel Rooms	\$2,800.00	Mr. Steven Webster
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Mr. Willie Bolton and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donations:

Two (2) 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Vehicles	\$2,000.00	City of Peachtree City
Two (2) 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Vehicles	\$4,700.00	City of Peachtree City

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Willie Bolton, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Clare McGuire of DPS Legal Services presented a Resolution requesting the Board of Public Safety to authorize the construction of the Tifton Hangar; authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into such agreements and/or memoranda of understanding with the Parties regarding issues including the design, planning, and management of the construction of the hangar; and authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations, contracts and agreements as necessary to acquire a long-term ground lease of the Tifton Hangar, provided that, should the Tifton Hangar cease to be used as a GSP Aviation hangar, the ground lease shall terminate.

The motion to accept this Resolution was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Commissioner Tyrone Oliver and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Clare McGuire of DPS Legal Services presented a Resolution requesting the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into all agreements and supporting documents as necessary to provide for the demolition of the 1957 Headquarters Building, in the 900 block of United Avenue S.E., Atlanta, Georgia, and its attendant Guard House.

The motion to accept this Resolution was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Lorri Smith, Georgia Department of Public Safety, requested issuance of \$30,065,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds.

Mr. Willie Bolton made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the Georgia Department of Public Safety, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the Board Members.

Director Mike Register, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, requested issuance of \$6,210,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which was seconded by Commissioner Tyrone Oliver and voted approved by the Board Members.

Ms. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested issuance of \$5,540,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds.

Mr. Willie Bolton made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the Board Members.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked for a motion for a Thank You Resolution to be presented to former Board Member Sheriff Dane Kirby. Chief Craig Tully made the motion to present a Resolution to Sheriff Kirby, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the Board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Craig Tully
Secretary