

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

September 8, 2022

Virtual and Call-in Meeting

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Willie C. Bolton  
Chief Bruce Carlisle  
Chief Stacey Cotton  
Mr. Richard Hyde  
Chief Leonard "Dee" Meadows  
Commissioner Michael Nail  
Mr. Rossie Ross  
Mr. Charles D. Sikes  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Captain Nicholas D. Ellis  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Mr. Samir J. Patel

### **OTHERS:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office  
Mrs. Jennifer Pendarvis, Board Liaison  
Ms. Cheryl Buie, Department of Public Safety  
Commissioner Christopher C. Wright, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Josh Lamb, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Kendrick Lowe, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Robert Balkcom, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain David Bryant, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Brian Screws, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Chris Nease, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Mr. Phillip Anderson, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Kaycee Larson, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Lorri Smith, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Clare McGuire, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Kelly Ward, Department of Public Safety  
Director Michael Register, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Asst. Director John Melvin, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Chris Hosey, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Rhonda Westbrook, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Deputy Director Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Warren Campbell, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Carlton Stewart, Attorney General's Office

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the September 8, 2022 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Vice-Chairman Wood gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Ms. Tina Piper to introduce her guest. Ms. Piper introduced Mr. Carlton Stewart, a new attorney at the Attorney General's Office.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the August 11, 2022 and August 18, 2022 BPS minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the August 11, 2022 and August 18, 2022 minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Willie Bolton and voted approved by the Board members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Wright, Georgia Department of Public Safety, reported the 113<sup>th</sup> Trooper School began on July 17<sup>th</sup> with 66 cadets and is in week 8 with 38 cadets remaining as of this morning. Commissioner Wright also reported there have been 828 applicants for the 114<sup>th</sup> Trooper School that will begin in January, 2023.

Commissioner Wright invited the Board members to the 8<sup>th</sup> Motor Carrier School graduation on September 30<sup>th</sup> at GPSTC with 16 new officers and invited the Board members to the Post 16 Hazlehurst grand opening on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 AM.

Concerning the crime suppression details, Commissioner Wright stated in addition to metro Atlanta, in August, DPS has started assisting the City of Savannah.

Commissioner Wright shared this past weekend, DPS members were assisting Chattooga and Floyd Counties with floods.

Commissioner Wright reported DPS personnel participated in the American Governors' Border Strike Force from August 15<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Wright explained this detail was named "Able Vanguard" and is an initiative started by the state of Arizona and is an effort focused on combatting crime created by the open borders policy. Commissioner Wright stated DPS partnered with GBI and focused some efforts on the Atlanta International Airport. Commissioner Wright shared statistics from the Atlanta Airport, which included 23 searches; 21 arrests; apprehension of 4 wanted persons; recovery of 1,050 pounds of marijuana, and \$7,000 in US currency. Statewide, Commissioner Wright shared 8,343 traffic stops were conducted; 27 pursuits were initiated; and over 278 searches were conducted, which resulted in the recovery of 19 guns and one missing child, and 65 felony arrests.

Commissioner Wright also shared with the Board that Aviation had a busy day the previous day, where a 14-year-old runaway was located in Madison County, and also a 2-year-old that walked away from a residence in Chattooga County was located.

Chief Craig Tully thanked Commissioner Wright and the Georgia State Patrol for stepping up and filling in gaps left in Miller County during the recent Sheriff transition.

Director Mike Register, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, advised over the last few days, he has been trying to look, listen, and learn from the great leaders at the Bureau and is confident the State is in good hands. Director Register asked Assistant Director John Melvin to present the Director Report so he could understand better what the Board looks for.

Assistant Director John Melvin reported there is a slight uptick in the crime lab numbers but expects the back log numbers to start decreasing due to the newly hired scientists coming out of training.

Assistant Director Melvin announced a 33-year-old cold in Dade County was recently solved, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, using genealogical DNA. Assistant Director Melvin noted the victim was identified, along with the perpetrator.

Assistant Director Melvin reported the Bureau partnered with Georgia Public Safety Training Center's Director, Chris Wigginton, as part of the state's effort on a workforce strategy initiative to address recruitment and retention among all law enforcement. Assistant Director Melvin advised he and Director Wigginton will be submitting a report to address those issues.

Regarding the medical examiners, Assistant Director Melvin shared the ME and his staff have put in a tremendous amount of overtime during the month of August and have been able to reduce the amount of time for an autopsy; however, it is not sustainable due to the staff not being able to continue working 55-60 hours a week; therefore, the Bureau is still working full force with recruitment efforts for medical examiners.

Assistant Director Melvin reported, in conjunction with the Georgia State Patrol, the Bureau provided intel and support for the American Governors' Border Strike Force. Assistant Director Melvin also reported since the July meeting the Crime Lab released an operational bulletin limiting some of the cases being tested as opposed to paraphilia. Assistant Director Melvin indicated there was some concern from chiefs of police and sheriff's departments, and he had the opportunity to address them at their association conferences and received good feedback and he feels they are all on the same page and working in the same direction.

Sheriff Joey Terrell thanked Assistant Director Melvin for speaking at the Sheriff's Association Conference, stating he made sense and explained everything very well.

Deputy Director Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported the Training Center ended June with 19,974 students for a total of 263,178 students for the last fiscal year, noting it was one of the Center's highest years and could hit close to over 300,000 students this year, which shows training is back full force after the impacts of COVID.

Deputy Director Greathouse announced Mr. Warren Campbell has been named the new Director of the Basic Training Division, sharing he had previously worked with the Coweta County Sheriff's Office and previously the Georgia State Patrol and the Sumter County Sheriff's Office and brings over two

decades of law enforcement experience, which will be instrumental in the Training Center's success as they move forward with the regional training and basic mandate programs.

Deputy Director Greathouse updated the Board on the low light shoot house project, announcing construction has been completed and the certificate of occupancy has been received. Deputy Director Greathouse did note they are waiting on the modular walls, and once received, training can be scheduled.

Concerning use of force training, Deputy Director Greathouse advised the Training Center has been allocated 10 additional instructor positions to provide training to local agencies within the state. Deputy Director Greathouse shared all but two instructors have been hired and are currently in training, with hopes to finish and implement the training by January.

Regarding School Resource Officer (SRO) training, Deputy Director Greathouse reported this week the Training Center has received funding from the Governor's Office and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for instructor positions and a building that will contain classroom and office space to conduct training. Deputy Director Greathouse noted they are updating the curriculum for the class for it to include a career program.

Deputy Director Greathouse also shared last week, the Center held its Second Annual School Resource Office Executive Seminar, which was attended by legislators, the Georgia School Superintendent, Georgia school police chiefs, sheriffs, school superintendents, and school safety directors from across the state, as well as school principals.

### **DONATIONS**

Deputy Director Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donation:

Five-Hundred Dollars Cash	\$500.00	Georgia Arson Control
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The motion to accept this donation 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 approval of the following donations:

One (1) Stalker RLR Lidar	\$2,521.50	Bryan County Board of Commissioners
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Two (2) Laser Labs Inspector II Tint Meters	\$278.00	Trenton Police Department
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Three (3) Laser Labs Inspector II Tint Meters	\$417.00	Dade County Sheriff's Office
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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.

**RESOLUTION**

Ms. Clare McGuire, Georgia Department of Public Safety, requested approval of a Resolution to authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to enter into negotiations, contracts, and agreements with the Board of Commissioners of Sumter County, Georgia, for a long-term lease regarding construction of a DPS-owned communications tower.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Craig Tully  
Secretary