

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
December 12, 2019
Georgia Department of Public Safety
Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bruce Carlisle
Chief Stacey L. Cotton
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. George Hartwig
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Mark Revenew
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Steve Cronic
Mr. Rossie Ross

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Dawn Arrowood, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Sgt. Shange Hodo, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Ms. Brittany Freeney, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Zack Howard, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Clare McGuire, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Kaycee Larson, Department of Public Safety
Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. John Melvin, Assistant Director, Chief of Staff, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. John Hutcheson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Chadd Wilson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Anthony Hughes, Retired Department of Public Safety

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Rampy, former BPS member
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Rampy
Ms. Jessica Hehs
Mr. Jeff Green, President, Greater Atlanta Limousine Association
Mr. Marty Smith, Director, Georgia Building Authority

Vice Chairman Wood called the December 12, 2019 BPS meeting to order. Retired DPS Sergeant Anthony Hughes gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Mark McDonough introduced Mr. Marty Smith, Director of the Georgia Building Authority. Commissioner McDonough shared Post 4 Villa Rica was a barn and looked like a barn and if it had not been for Mr. Smith, Post 4 would not have the facility they have now. Commissioner McDonough stated through Mr. Smith's leadership they acquired an old bank branch building and then refitted the building for Post 4's purposes. Commissioner McDonough stated Mr. Smith now serves as the Executive Director of the Georgia Building Authority and already has shown his commitment to DPS and has been at every meeting with every single design person and every contractor and has sat quietly in the back of the room as the new DPS HQ process moves forward. Commissioner McDonough acknowledge DPS has quite a friend in Mr. Smith.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to stand and introduce themselves.

Mr. Mark Revenew presented former BPS member, Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., with a Resolution honoring his years of service to the state of Georgia and the Georgia Board of Public Safety.

Mr. Rampy shared he appreciated his career with the Georgia State Patrol, always thought a lot of all law enforcement. Mr. Rampy added he has never met anybody on the Board of Public Safety that he did not think had the law enforcement of Georgia and everywhere else in their heart. Mr. Rampy stated he appreciates his family looking after him and appreciates everyone he served with on the Board of Public Safety.

Vice-Chairman recognized Mrs. Louise Rampy and stated the BPS has never had a spouse who participated as much as she has.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety began his report by making several acknowledgements. Commissioner McDonough noted that retired DPS Sgt. Hughes is in retirement as he is bringing back the leisure suit and wears it very good in retirement.

Commissioner McDonough stated there has always been the comment, coat and tie for the GBI, but noticed in the last week or so, he has run across GBI Director Reynolds in the working uniform of the GBI agents and told Director Reynolds, he thinks it is a positive statement of what he is doing and what he has been doing and his agents will appreciate him wearing the GBI working uniform.

Regarding Mr. Lester Rampy, Commissioner McDonough noted Major Rampy is always very modest when he talks about his experiences with the GSP and always identifies himself as the live person, Trooper Rampy and this is what his definition is of his past. Commissioner McDonough stated there is a little more behind the Resolution, as when Mr. Rampy was the Major, it was a very dark period in the leadership of GSP. Commissioner McDonough stated there were some issues and Major Rampy was the leadership, the man that was simply the best, better than all the rest, that carried GSP through a very dark time and thanked Major Rampy for what he did.

Commissioner McDonough recognized Mr. Zachary Howard, a child who has grown up at DPS the last couple of years. Commissioner McDonough shared that Mr. Howard came out of law school and said he wanted to be a police officer and went to work for the Gwinnett County Police Department. Commissioner McDonough stated Mr. Howard passed the bar exam and then wanted to get the experience of the people that actually do the job and went to the largest county with one of the best law enforcement agencies in this state and worked the road, answering calls as a police officer and did so because the element of law enforcement that he wanted to be involved in was on the side of supporting the police officer. Commissioner McDonough stated he went into private practice, specifically supporting the needs of police officers in their legal representation. Commissioner McDonough added DPS was fortunate in getting him and the governor put out an effort for all of us to look at rules and regulations, things within the agency to attempt to make things better for business and for the interaction of business with the DPS, and Mr. Howard was already working on this two years ago on his own initiative. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS is losing Mr. Howard in a couple days and going to work for the US Attorney for the state of Georgia, specifically in trafficking, drug and gang related issues in Gwinnett County and Floyd County. Commissioner McDonough shared it is very neat to see Mr. Howard come through this line and see a person come out of law school and take that track, our loss is the US Attorney's gain. Commissioner McDonough thanked Mr. Howard for everything he has done for the DPS and is excited to see what podium he will be behind in his future.

Commissioner McDonough recognize Major Johnny Jones who is retiring January 1, 2020 and has 36 years with the state, predominately doing one thing, chasing after dangerous trucks on the roadway. Commissioner McDonough stated Major Jones has brought a passion to this job that none of his predecessors have brought to the job, things that have been done in a state that has seven years in a row, been the best place in the nation to do business. Commissioner McDonough stated the growth in Metro Atlanta has increased, population wise, with 1740 new residents a week, just in Metro Atlanta and everyone that rides the roadways can tell where the economy is because as a fellow that used to run the Teamsters Union use to say, if you have it, if you want it, or if you want to sell it, it gets there on a truck. Commissioner McDonough noted that aspect on the Georgia roadways that ends up being a safety aspect, as well, trucks present a dangerous issue on the roadway and Major Jones has committed his life to it and in that period of time, with all of that, one would just think keeping the needle in the right place would be a victory, but this year, Georgia dropped from 4th in the nation in commercial motor vehicle fatalities down to 5th, so in a time of extreme growth and see what is happening in the economy, Major Jones' efforts and the efforts of his division have had a positive effect. Commissioner McDonough thanked Major Jones for the job he has done and hopes in the years to come, Major Jones can serve as an advisor on other issues.

Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation shared everything is good at the GBI. Director Reynolds thanked the BPS and all the partners in the room and noted as they wrap up his first year as being the GBI Director, the GBI is a great agency and is so honored and humbled to play a small part in it. Director Reynolds stated he has worn a coat and tie for the last 25-30 years and is going to take advantage if he has an opportunity to wear the agents' uniform.

Director Reynolds stated the GBI will be graduating an agent class on Friday, December 20 at GPSTC at 1000 hours and everyone is welcomed.

Director Reynolds stated he works out 4-5 mornings a week and does a little martial art on the weekend and went down to work out with the agents. Director Reynolds shared he went down on Tuesday night and stayed in the barracks and got up at 5:00 a.m., went to the gym and worked out until 6:30 a.m. and could not move and the agents walked up to him and asked him what he thought. Director Reynolds stated he told them next year when he tells them he wants to do this; they have his full permission to hit him with a baseball bat. Director Reynolds shared it was a great day and a pleasure to work out with the agents and excited about these young folks, who will hit the ground running.

Director Reynolds stated there has been a major push of emphasis on criminal street gangs. Director Reynolds added last week in South Georgia, a major indictment returned in Sumter Co. involving a murder case of gangs and also last week in Coffee Co., there was a 41-count indictment returned based on a GBI case involving the Gangster Disciples and the Bloods. Director Reynolds declared the message is reaching out much past the Metro Atlanta area as the GBI works with the local partners, local prosecutors and is a good thing for us to see in this state, as we need to stay on top of that. Director Reynolds acknowledged this message is being heard in all corners of the state. Director Reynolds advised GBI is working very hard in a very close partnership with Commissioner Nail and Commissioner Ward putting together a first ever statewide gang data base and can't emphasized enough for Commissioner Nail and Commissioner Ward allowing there folks to work with us, and Commissioner Nail's IT folks are probably one of the best departments in the state, they are tremendous. Director Reynolds advised this law was passed in 2010 and in nine years, nothing has been done on this, so the language about the state's ability and authority to develop a statewide gang data base and under this administration, we have decided to push forward on this and put it together and can not do it without the help of DOC and DCS and thanked them for their willingness to work with the GBI. Director Reynolds stated they are hoping by the governor's state of the state address on January 14th, will be able to allow him to publicly announce the data base is up and running. Director Reynolds advised the first iteration is done and have begun putting convicted gang members initially and will start expanding it based on reasonable suspicion as we start training the trainers around the state to implement this. Director Reynolds stated they are excited about this and is pointed in the right direction. Director Reynolds acknowledge the first 10 months has been a real treat for him, a real delight to be back on the law enforcement side and enjoy being here. Director Reynolds thanked Assistant Director Dan Kirk and John Melvin for all they have done, both are his right-hand guys and could not have got to this point without them.

Commissioner Nail shared with the GBI and DOC, it is a pleasure to work with Commissioner Ward and Director Reynolds and is a solid partnership.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center advised several months ago, he addressed an issue of having the lack of a physical assessment and medical screening for most public safety professionals that go through the academy. Director Wigginton advised GPSTC has been working on the implementation with POST and getting some data and have a program in place that has been tried and proven and one GPSTC would like to adopt at some time. Director Wigginton stated they will have to run it through some tests and get it voted on by POST Council. Director Wigginton advised the prototype has been built, will be on half of a basketball court, all the obstacles are job related, climbing stairs, fence, under a low crawl, hurdles and will have to run it in a certain amount of time. Director Wigginton stated three basic classes have run through it, along with the GBI agents, he ran through it himself, POST Council Director Mike Ayers ran through it and had a 7% failure rate, with 114 participants and 7 failed at this point. Director Wigginton advised the ones that failed it, knew the time prior to going in and 3 or 4 of them probably could have made it, was a lack of effort on their part. Director Wigginton said the time set for the course is 2 minutes and 6 seconds, and Director Ayers who is 56 years old, doing police work for 34 years, made it in a minute and 54 seconds. Director Wigginton added when there are 21 and 22-year-old kids that can't make it through, they need to back up and look in the mirror. Director Wigginton stated starting January 1, this physical assessment will be put at all of the regional academies, run all cadets through it and start getting a data base and a base line that we can present to POST Council in July and hopefully get the first vote in July and then to the Council for the full vote in September. Director Wigginton stated he wanted the BPS to be aware of it, as they may get questions about it. Director Wigginton reiterated this is not too difficult in his opinion, it is a small obstacle course they must run, is job related and will have a good base line of 750 cadets by the end of July. Director Wigginton stated GPSTC will be able to have a solid number of failures and attempts and is looking at the entry failures and see if it directly ties to another failure by the end of the course, either academic or failure to complete some type of task.

Director Wigginton stated the medical screening form that is submitted to POST Council is pretty laxed where one does not have to list a whole lot of stuff and are working with POST Council to get a new form implemented, where the cadet will have a doctor fill out asking specific questions. Director Wigginton stated there were three deaths in Georgia that was in some type or form of basic training and all had underlying health issues that were not documented on their evaluation forms.

Director Wigginton thanked the Board for approving the donation of the ambulances and fire trucks last month. Director Wigginton advised in February, GPSTC will release and start implementing the ambulance and fire truck driving EVOC program. Director Wigginton stated when looking around the state, there are no mandated driving requirements for anyone that drives an ambulance or fire truck and would be shocking to the Board, the statistics on those accidents that have taken place where they have not had any driving training.

Director Wigginton stated when the Board meets in January at GPSTC, they can take a tour of two new ranges, a tactical skill building and a shoot house with a new 360-degree simulator.

Regarding the physical assessment for police officers, Mr. Charles Sikes asked Director Wigginton will that spill over at some point for firefighters and EMTs. Director Wigginton advised that it could, and this is a good start to start with this base line and eventually get into every implementation in the state.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Director Wigginton and the GPSTC for the Public Safety Awards last week.

Chief Stacey Cotton shared one of his officers, who was recognized at the Public Safety Awards Ceremony, Matt Cooper was shot Labor Day 2018 in between the eyes and the nose over a 99 cents shoplifting deal in Covington. Chief Cotton stated Officer Cooper is a warrior for our country, serving two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, was an Army sniper and has been through sniper training at GPSTC and has competed internationally and recognized as a top sniper, a warrior from the get-go. Chief Cotton added the day he was shot, he turned his warrior mentality back on and represented Covington PD in this profession and this state very well by being a fighter and continues to improve every day. Chief Cotton stated Governor Kemp is a big supporter of Matt Cooper, just as everybody else is and everyone around the state and country continues the support and Matt continues to improve. Chief Cotton added when talking with Matt, he is as on point as anyone in this room, and mentally he suffered no brain damage, but did suffer three strokes the first night and the left side of his body is still recuperating, but he qualified about two weeks ago and is proud of that and can carry his firearm again. Chief Cotton stated Matt will be back to work soon and it was a great honor for him to be recognized at the Public Safety Awards Ceremony and put on the wall. Chief Cotton went on to share his former assistant police chief, Almond Turner who served by his side for 20 years was murdered in Meridian, Mississippi, the Saturday before Thanksgiving by a family member and are still struggling with it. Chief Cotton stated Mr. Turner had 45 years of service at the Covington Police Department and 23 years on the school board, a tremendous human being, citizen, servant of the people and are still in shock of this loss. With Matt's story, Chief Cotton expressed it is a story of hope, when you have a tragedy with death that hurts, but when watching someone struggle like Matt did, gives hope. Chief Cotton thanked everyone for their outpouring support and for helping to get Mr. Turner's body back to Covington.

DONATIONS

Major Mark Perry, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One Stalker Dual SL Radar	\$	3,000.00	Tybee Island Police Dept.
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Monetary Donation for the Purchase of a K-9	\$	10,000.00	MacAljon Inc.
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The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Sheriff Dane Kirby, and voted approved by the Board members.

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

2012 Honda CBR250R	\$	1,800.00	Pooler Police Department
2002 Honda CBR600F4	\$	1,000.00	Pooler Police Department
2005 Kawasaki EX250F	\$	1,000.00	Pooler Police Department
2004 Kawasaki EX250F	\$	1,000.00	Pooler Police Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Mark Revenew, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the BPS members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zachary Howard, Department of Public Safety presented for Initial Adoption, requested changes to Proposed DPS Rules Chapter 570-35, 570-36, 570-38 and the Maximum Rate Tariff for Carriers of Household Goods in Intrastate Transportation.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the Initial Adoption requested changes to Proposed DPS Rules Chapter 570-35, 570-36, 570-38 and Maximum Rate Tariff for Carriers of Household Goods in Intrastate Transportation. This was seconded by Commissioner Nail and voted approved by the BPS members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Mark Revenew
Secretary