

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
May 1, 2024
Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Forsyth, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Willie Bolton
Mr. Stacey Cotton
Mr. Roy H. Fickling
Mr. Richard Hyde
Governor Brian Kemp
Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie
Chief Janet L. Moon
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Billy New
Commissioner Tyrone Oliver
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Ms. Susan K. Treadaway
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief Leonard "Dee" Meadows

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office
Mrs. Jennifer Pendarvis, Board Liaison
Lt. Governor Burt Jones
Attorney General Chris Carr
Mrs. Joan Carr
Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper
Insurance Commissioner John King
First Lady Marty Kemp
First Daughter Amy Porter Kemp
Commissioner Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Kendrick Lowe, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Josh Lamb, Department of Public Safety
Major Robert Balkcom, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Doug Wilson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Rusty Harrelson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major David Bryant, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Brandon Dawson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain J.K. Crews, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Craig Singletary, Department of Public Safety/GSP
SFC Raul Mejia, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Director Chris Hosey, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Director Cynthia Adkins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation/Investigations

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Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Deputy Director Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Georgia Department of Public Safety
Ms. Lorri Smith, Georgia Department of Public Safety
Mr. Jason McDaniel, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Adam Ham, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Angela Batey, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Beverley Walker, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Andrew Isenhour, Office of the Governor
Director James Bergman, Georgia Department of Community Supervision
Director Jay Neal, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Mr. Larry Haynie, Board of Corrections
Chief Chad Jones, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs
Chief Brian Boutwell, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs
Director Butch Ayers, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Mark Scott, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Scott Gray, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
Executive Director Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs' Association
Sheriff Billy Hancock, Crisp County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Ezell Brown, Newton County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Randy Shirley, Stephens County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Brad Freeman, Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Lenn Wood, Coweta County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff David Davis, Bibb County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Nicholas Ellis, City of Jesup
Lieutenant Brandon Williams, Jesup Police Department
Chief Garrett Fiveash, LaGrange Police Department
Ms. Donna Schoonover
Ms. Ashley Still

Governor Brian Kemp called the May 1, 2024 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Mr. Adam Ham gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governor Kemp recognized the guests in the room: Mr. Nicholas Ellis, Lieutenant Brandon Williams with the Jesup Police Department; Lt. Governor Burt Jones; Attorney General Chris Carr and wife Joan; Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper; Insurance Commissioner John King; First Lady Marty Kemp; and First Daughter Amy Porter Kemp.

Chief Craig Tully presented a thank you Resolution to former Board of Public Safety Member Nicholas Ellis. Mr. Ellis thanked the Governor and First Lady for their support, the Board of Public Safety, the DPS Command Staff and Directors from GBI and GPSTC for the work they have allowed

him to contribute to the Board. Mr. Ellis stated it is an honor to serve on the Board and an honor to serve the state. Governor Kemp thanked Mr. Ellis for his service to the Board of Public Safety and for his current service on the State Board of Education.

Governor Kemp called for approval of the April 11, 2024 BPS minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the April 11, 2024 minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Roy Fickling and voted approved by the Board members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Billy Hitchens, Georgia Department of Public Safety, thanked Mr. Nicholas Ellis for his leadership and guidance while on the Board of Public Safety.

Commissioner Hitchens reported the 11th MCO School graduated on Friday, April 26th with 7 new Officers. Commissioner Hitchens also reported the 117th Trooper School has 40 active candidates and will graduate September 13th, and candidates for the 118th Trooper School, which will begin on July 21st, are currently in the hiring process.

Commissioner Hitchens updated the Board regarding activity on a couple of the specialty units through the month reporting Aviation has conducted 43 flights and 15 searches, which has resulted in 9 individuals being found. Commissioner Hitchens added there were 2 events Aviation assisted with, Orange Crush on Tybee Island which was handled properly with no issues, and the Vidalia Air Show where Aviation along with SWAT conducted demonstrations. Commissioner Hitchens also noted the Crime Suppression Unit has apprehended 42 criminals so far this year, with 3 of those being murder suspects; the SWAT Team has been on 39 calls so far this year and in those calls, they have apprehended 10 murder suspects.

Regarding construction projects, Commissioner Hitchens reported Post 18, Reidsville is extremely close to being finished and there will be an open house soon.

Governor Kemp advised Commissioner Hitchens he appreciates what the troops have been doing, noting the Crime Suppression Unit has been going on for quite some time, while working not only with Atlanta Police Department, but with other local agencies around the State.

Director Chris Hosey, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, thanked Mr. Nicholas Ellis for his friendship and partnership over the years.

Director Hosey reported the Investigative Division has been busy addressing gang violence across the state. Director Hosey shared an investigation conducted recently along with Texas DPS and Cedar Park, Texas Police Department netted 20 arrests; "Operation Spring Clean" with the Atlanta PD resulted in 16 arrests; and the GBI assisted Richmond County SO and Attorney General Chris Carr with indicting 30 individuals on criminal gang charges in the Augusta area.

Director Hosey reported there have been 21 officer involved shootings since January 1st of this year.

Concerning the Cold Case Unit, Director Hosey reported the Unit has reviewed 24 cases since its inception on July 1st and some of those have gone through the proper protocol of the Coleman-Baker Act where family members have requested for the case to be reviewed and others were self-initiated by the Unit.

Director Hosey shared the Behavioral Analysis Program has two individuals getting set to conduct a residency to be fully certified as Behavioral Analysts.

Director Hosey noted there are 14 Agents in the Basic Academy graduating in June. Director Hosey added there are 16 candidates who have accepted a conditional offer to Basic Agent School starting in September and there are 200 plus who have applied to take the GBI test for consideration as an Agent.

Within the Crime Lab, Director Hosey reported the Bureau is working hard to fill vacancies, noting the 32 vacancies reported at the last meeting are all in some state of hiring. Director Hosey added there has been a decrease in the backlog, stating hiring scientists in positions to assist has created an almost 14% decrease in the backlog as of July 1st of last year. Director Hosey also advised the Medical Examiner's office has 12 of 19 positions filled, and by the end of August there will be 15 positions filled.

Director Hosey shared the Georgia Crime Information Center had to make a switch over with the Georgia Law Enforcement Messaging Center due to the system being outdated and there have been some issues and GCIC personnel have been working with agencies to work through them, noting a lot of the issues have to do with the different systems being run by different agencies across the state.

Regarding construction projects, Director Hosey advised the design for the expansion of the Headquarters ME's office should be completed by the end of December; the Region 1 office in Calhoun is coming along; and the remains being identified to be placed in the mausoleum is almost complete and there will be a dedication ceremony planned soon.

Director Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported the Training Center is on track this fiscal year to reach 350,000 students and that number is up from 312,000 last year, and up from about 75,000 10 years ago.

Director Wigginton advised there are currently just under 500 basic recruits around the state that work for local and municipality agencies that should graduate in a couple of months. Director Wigginton shared the School Resource Officer Program kicked off Monday in Savannah, noting this program is mobile and is going to reach School Resource Officers around the state, especially those in rural communities who do not have the time or resources to travel to Forsyth.

Director Wigginton also reported SOAR, the State Opioid Adapted Response program tied into the school safety program, is being expanded and offered along with NARCAN classes being given to educators and teachers with approval of administration.

DONATIONS

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

Two (2) Stalker LIDARs Model RLR	\$6,250.00	Liberty County Sheriff's Office
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Fifteen (15) PepperBall VKS Pro Plus Launchers with Projectiles (1,125 LiveX and 400 glass breakers)	\$25,755.07	Carroll County Sheriff's Office
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The motion to accept these items was made by Mr. Roy Fickling, which was seconded by Mr. Stacey Cotton and voted approved by the Board members.

Governor Kemp thanked Director Wigginton and GPSTC for hosting the Board meeting and for also hosting the upcoming public safety bill signings.

Governor Kemp called for a motion to adjourn the May 1, 2024 Board of Public Safety meeting. Chief Janet Moon made the motion to adjourn the May 1, 2024 Board of Public Safety meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Willie Bolton and voted approved.

Craig Tully
Secretary