

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

September 12, 2019

300 Big Sky Drive

Hiawassee, Georgia 30546

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bruce Carlisle
Chief Stacey L. Cotton
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. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Steve Cronic

OTHERS:

Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Al Whitworth, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Marc Godby, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Shawn Prather, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Legal Director, Department of Public Safety
Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. John Melvin, Chief of Staff, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Lester and Mrs. Louise Rampy, former BPS member

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the September 12th, 2019 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Vice-Chairman Wood recognized Mr. Tom Phillips and his son, Tony and thanked them for hosting the group for dinner last night and for their law enforcement support.

Mr. Dan Kirk gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers

Mr. Mark Revenew opened the floor for nominations for the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Public Safety. Sheriff Joey Terrell nominated Mr. Ellis Wood, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully. The Board members voted to approve for Mr. Ellis Wood to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Public Safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood opened the floor for nominations for the Secretary of the Board of Public Safety. Chief Bruce Carlisle nominated Mr. Mark Revenew, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully. The Board members voted to approve for Mr. Mark Revenew to serve as Secretary of the Board of Public Safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood recognized former board member Mr. Lester Rampy and his wife, Mrs. Louise.

Mr. Rampy shared that he enjoyed serving on the BPS and 33 years as a trooper and as far as the BPS is concerned, he has never met better people.

Commissioner McDonough commented Mr. Rampy embodies to never give up, never give in, never say die and have seen him go through medical issues and said he was going to come back and play golf and he did. Commissioner McDonough shared Mr. Rampy has been invaluable and old dog that has all that old knowledge and we are all better off for it. Commissioner McDonough thanked Mr. Rampy.

Chief Mark Revenew introduced new BPS member Chief Stacey Cotton, who has served as Police Chief of Covington PD for over 20 years. Chief Revenew noted anyone who has anything to do with GACP, knows the input and the valuable services Chief Cotton has provided. Chief Revenew stated Chief Cotton has served as Past President and has been on numerous committees for the GACP and his agency, Covington Police Department is a beacon of quality for other agencies, the first CALEA agency in Georgia and has been a leader in cutting edge policing in Georgia. Mr. Revenew noted a lot of police chiefs have looked at Chief Cotton as a mentor and he will be an amazing asset to the BPS with his knowledge and connections throughout the state.

Chief Cotton shared it is an honor to serve on the BPS and will serve as a humbled servant.

Chief Craig Tully made a motion to reappoint Mr. Charles Sikes to Member-At-Large #7 seat. This was seconded by Mr. Mark Revenew and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Charles Sikes made a motion to appoint Mr. Rossie J. Ross of Stewart County to Member -At-Large #6 seat. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Sheriff Dane Kirby introduced Deputy Ethan Barton of the Fannin County Sheriff's Department.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety shared DPS has gone through a ransomware attack which has essentially shut down all the support aspects, right down to the use of the

MDTs. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS is six weeks into recovery and at four weeks into the recovery, CTS (DPS computer aided dispatch vendor) their parent company was ransomware attacked and they stopped with our help and essentially retooled to be not affected by their parent company and have just started working back with DPS.

Concerning the IT environment in the last couple of years, Commissioner McDonough advised there are three stages as to what DPS has done, turning up the speed through GTA and then our system being managed by GTA and in doing so, there is insurance that came along with it so if this type thing actually occurred, we would have the insurance and would be able to back us up. Commissioner McDonough noted when a ransomware attack occurs, one has a choice of either paying the ransom or pay what it costs to recover from the attack. Commissioner McDonough stated law enforcement is not going to pay the ransom and thankful DPS had the insurance policy because at the end of this would be something that would go into the millions of dollars to recover from this. Commissioner McDonough stated it looks like from the forensics, that it was an employee that inadvertently opened the door, our system and all the cautions in the system were not breached, an employee that saw something that looked like something that as a supervisor that they should act upon regarding invoices. Commissioner McDonough noted all the training the employees go through to ensure the integrity of our systems, it is very, very important, but if one has seen some of the stuff that is crafted, it looks good. Commissioner McDonough added the type of ransomware the DPS was hit by is a modification of what is usually used to catch financial institutions. Commissioner McDonough stated this is important and gave an example of those paying their GACP dues on their agency system and in doing so, one used their credit card to pay for their association dues. Commissioner McDonough stated he recently receive an email basically giving his username and password for him to click on something, in other words the ransomware looks for passwords and looks for usernames specific to financial transactions. Commissioner McDonough stated if he had clicked on the email, it would have shut DPS down as it was another fishing expedition from the information the ransomware had found. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged there are a lot resources out there if it happens to other agencies and if an agency is a GTA managed system in state government, they have that insurance and there is a group GTA will bring in to do the forensics and help with the recovery, but will take a while. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS will be lucky by this time next board meeting that the troopers will have access to the mobile forms server where they can go back to working accidents and writing electronic citations. Commissioner McDonough added this is a long slow process and will keep the BPS updated as this goes along.

Regarding the HQ building project, Commissioner McDonough stated the planning effort is moving along and using a new track that is being used by the Georgia Building Authority where you involved the planners and the construction company at one time. Commissioner McDonough stated the planner must be picked and then pick the construction company and are in this phase right now. Commissioner McDonough advised Captain Robert Moody will be the project manager for DPS. Commissioner McDonough stated they are trying to have the demolition of the old Public Safety Training Center, prior to the session and is the chosen site for the new DPS HQ. Commissioner McDonough stated the basic plan is to demolish the old Public Safety Training Center, build the new building, vacate the building that is on the roadway and then demolish that building. Commissioner McDonough stated the

project will take 2 to 2 ½ years from the start to ribbon cutting time. Commissioner McDonough advised DPS will continue to refurbish Building 5, the large building on top of the hill, that houses Troop C HQ, Post 48, SWAT and DIVE and will be moving the HQ Radio Room from existing building into the basement of Building 5. Commissioner McDonough noted pieces that used to be in the old building, will no longer put pressure on square footage space needs in the new HQ. Commissioner McDonough stated the new building will be designed specific to DPS needs and will be a unique building, but will not be expansive, due to what has been done at the other facilities.

Commissioner McDonough advised DPS has completed the Strategic Plan process, which is a very simple agency and the strategic plan and what DPS does is very simple with emphasis on DUI, Distracted Driving, Occupancy Protection and do all of this through traffic stops. Commissioner McDonough acknowledge Governor Kemp's plan and goals for the state have to do with the gang initiative and all the troopers will be going through training specific to gangs.

With the strategic plan, Commissioner McDonough stated DPS was asked to give recommendations for efficiencies of what can be done with the governor's initiative to take four cents out of every dollar. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS is looking at every place so that we do not get into the personnel. Commissioner McDonough stated he has looked at Aviation and probably in the next couple of months, they will hear him talk about the sale and return of up to five aircraft and will replace with one new aircraft and will be a whole lot less to maintain than the five old ones and will still be able to provide the same services. Commissioner McDonough advised all out of state travel has been cancelled, will also be looking to reduce any instate travel by up to 50% and have also spreadsheet for each individual division, spending on their P-Cards and through requisitions and have given them a goal to reduce that by 25%.

Commissioner McDonough advised former BPS member, Danny Bryant was hospitalized in Savannah and had a single by-pass surgery yesterday.

Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation thanked Assistant Director Dan Kirk who has guided him and has become a friend and mentioned his Chief of Staff, John Melvin and they have made a tremendous team.

Director Reynolds advised everything is going well at the GBI and he is so honored and humbled to take the position as director and has been an honor to get to know the agents.

Director Reynolds stated he is proud of the partnerships with other agencies, both the federal, state and local agencies and noted DPS is always there for the GBI and works with the GBI day in and day out. Director Reynolds shared he was down in Region 4 in Coffee County and as he was leaving the Douglas area and getting into Irwin County, his SAC called him and wanted to know where he was and the SAC told him to go to the Sheriff's Department and wait for a trooper to come get him as they had just hit a big marijuana field. Director Reynolds stated the trooper picked him up in the chopper and they went to the marijuana field and told the guys if they do this all the time, he wanted to stay down there. Director Reynolds stated this shows the great partnership with DPS and noted

Commissioner Nail with Department of Community Supervision and Commissioner Ward with the Department of Corrections are our partners as they are working with GBI closely on the new gang task force data base. Director Reynolds shared it makes him feel good and very proud of the partnerships that have developed and are fostering with the local, state and federal partners.

Director Reynolds stated he serves on the Governors Cyber Security Committee and that 92% of ransomware incidents occurs one of two ways, when an employee opens an email or an attachment. Director Reynolds stated 92% of the attempts could be eliminated by making sure one is opening appropriate emails and attachments. Director Reynolds shared he spoke with Calvin Rhodes, Director at GTA and last month, in the state of Georgia, there were 3.4 million hacks of some sort into the state government system and the GTA network stopped at the door about 2.6 million hacks.

Regarding Governor Kemp's priority to be aggressive and assertive with the attack on criminal street gangs, Director Reynolds stated all GBI agents have been trained on how to make gang cases, make them stick and make them prosecutable and convictable, and have reached out and begun training local partners as well. Director Reynolds advised the first gang task force has been stood up and is working and is available to assist law enforcement throughout Georgia. Director Reynolds stated the gang task force will be physically stationed in Rockdale County and will be available to work all over the state. Director Reynolds stated the gang task force just worked a large case in the southeastern quadrant with an indictment coming down on several gang members and are working on a second major indictment in the same area, involving several violent felony crimes and murder. Director Reynolds advised the task force is getting ready to proceed on a major case in the southern tip of Georgia, including the Lowndes County area, as a major Bloods sec is running out of that area and believe to have our hands on the second ranking bloods member in the state of Georgia. Director Reynolds also advised they worked with partners in Stephens County on a major gang case where an indictment was returned in the last three weeks and have just worked a major case in Clayton County. Director Reynolds stated they are beginning to see the work pay off and is convinced that anywhere from 48% to 90% of all violent crimes are committed by criminal street gangs, regardless of where one lives and this is a top priority of the GBI working these gang cases and are starting to see the needle move. Director Reynolds advised each regional office will have a regional gang specialist agent who will be the go to person and help work those cases and in Stephens County, was a result of a murder investigation by one of the agents in Region 8 and when going back to review the case, were convinced not only was it a solid murder case, but it was a solid gang case as well. Director Reynolds advised the Stephens County authorities worked very closely with the GBI, along with the District Attorney to go back and re-indict not only under the murder count, but the gang case as well. Based on a study, Director Reynolds says he has read multiple times, if it is a viable prosecutable gang count, a single gang count will increase chances 300% attached to the indictment and tells his district attorney friends, that is too good to leave on the table. Director Reynolds acknowledged when an indictment that has both gang counts and RICO counts, it is one of the most powerful sledgehammer tools that can be dropped on a criminal street gang. Director Reynolds stated he has seen this firsthand and it will literally run the gang out of the county and are trying to do this all over the state. Director Reynolds shared he hoped to have those on the front line at a BPS meeting to address what they see out there day in and day out.

Director Reynolds stated GBI is still investigating to many officers involved shootings, worked #57 yesterday and acknowledged this is a tremendous issue in the state and takes a lot of manpower to work the cases.

Regarding the new crime lab in Pooler, Director Reynolds stated it is a very nice facility and are very proud of it and the scientists do tremendous work at the facility. Speaking of scientists, Director Reynolds stated one of the issues facing the law enforcement community and the prosecution community is the issue about marijuana and hemp. Director Reynolds stated as of September 3, the HQ Crime Lab began accepting felony amounts of marijuana back into the lab for purpose of testing and feel confident where we are at on those cases and by the end of this month, we will accepting felony amounts of marijuana into the other labs around the state. Director Reynolds declared the scientists have continually looked for some type of test that is scientifically valid so that they can testify to, under oath when they test misdemeanor amounts so they can tell the difference between hemp and marijuana and have not found that yet. Director Reynolds stated they have sat down with prosecutors and taken recommendations on instruments to look at and have had multiple discussions with various members of the legislative body and if we do not find something, the issue will be address immediately in the legislative session and thinks there is language that can make those cases feasible and practical and prosecutable again and know some of his prosecution friends and law enforcement friends who still believe they are and there is an argument to that.

Director Reynolds stated the GBI has had some strong cases with the Internet Crimes Against Children around the state with an operation in Athens a month or so ago and had the honor of Governor Kemp and First Lady to stop by and see command central as the cases were made. Director Reynolds stated with the operation in Athens, an individual was arrested who had served over thirty years for a murder case and was out, had a shovel, gloves, duct tape and rope and was going to meet what he thought was a 14 year old girl.

Director Reynolds shared Forsyth County just ran a major operation of this nature and will have a press conference today and some of the GBI will be there to stand with him.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center shared the GPST closed out year-end operations with a little over 240,000 students touched throughout Georgia and some nationally and internationally. Director Wigginton stated they had a symposium last Tuesday regarding the suicide prevention awareness video and tried firsthand at live streaming, around 300 attendants at GPSTC and over 1000 watching it live streamed.

Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC has a symposium coming up on the gang issue with three US Attorneys attending, who are very interested in helping local agencies prosecute the gang cases and, the Prosecuting Attorneys Council is very involved. Director Wigginton shared in November-December there will be a one-day symposium on human trafficking which will get out a lot of information to local agencies and give them the tools to build the cases.

Director Wigginton stated GPSTC is under heavy construction at the firearms complex, adding on a new part to the firearms complex, called the tactical skills section funded from bonds. Director Wigginton advised three new ranges are being built and a bomb range, a new shoot house and then the new tactical skills building that will have a new 360-degree simulator and will expand on the active shooter training with these facilities.

Concerning the Fire Academy, Director Wigginton advised participation is up 20% and can solely direct it to the volunteer program and were able to hire two instructors a couple of years ago and dedicate them to the volunteer fire fighter program and put them in the field throughout the state.

Director Wigginton stated there is a donation from Haralson County for a used fire truck and are proposing to bring back driver training for EMTs and fire departments that does not exist at this time.

DONATIONS

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

Travel Expenses for Nigel Lange to Attend the American Assoc. of Police Polygraphists Annual Conference	\$ 662.00	Mr. Derek Piasecki
One Eagle Print Live Scan Desktop Fingerprint System	\$ 8,196.00	Mr. Paul Derek Strickland
Online Warrant System Equipment and Annual Service Fee	\$ 1,890.00 \$ 1,395.00	Bartow Co. Commissioners
Two Oshkosh Tank Trucks	\$ 188,249.92	Law Enforcement Support Office
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$ 6,231.00	Warren Co. Probate Court

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Bruce Carlisle, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

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

Check	\$ 2,000.00	Southern Company Gas
155 Bales of Hay	\$ 7,750.00	Bostick Farms
Toys for Children's Home	\$ 300.00	Five Below Dist. Center

Three 2010 Ford Crown Vic 4S	\$	2,700.00	Columbus Consolidated Gov.
One 1997 International Fire Truck	\$	500.00	Haralson County

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Mr. Mark Revenew, and voted approved by the BPS members

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Joan Crumpler, Legal Director, Georgia Department of Public Safety presented for approval the Proposed Georgia Department of Public Safety Rules Chapter 570-9 (Off-Duty Police Employment).

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the Proposed GA Department of Public Safety Rules Chapter 570-9 (Off-Duty Police Employment), which was seconded by Mr. George Hartwig and voted approved by the BPS members.

Ms. Crumpler added a public hearing will be held on October 22nd, 2019, with the proposed adoption of the rule to be voted on at the November 14th, 2019 BPS meeting.

Chief Craig Tully made a motion to adjourn the Board of Public Safety meeting and go into the Georgia Crime Information Center Council, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes and voted approved by the Board members.

GEORGIA CRIME INFORMATION CENTER COUNCIL

GBI Assistant Director Dan Kirk presented the FY2019 CJIS Security Policy Violations report for the Georgia Crime Information Center which involves unauthorized access and dissemination of criminal justice information. Mr. Kirk noted there were 23 violations reported during FY2019. Mr. Kirk presented the request for approval of actions taken to resolve security policy violations for FY2019 to the BPS members for their approval.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to accept the GCIC's recommendations for the FY2019 CJIS Security Policy Violations, which was seconded by Chief Bruce Carlisle and voted approved by the Board members.

Chief Craig Tully made a motion to adjourn the GCIC Council and return to the Board of Public Safety meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded everyone the BPS will meet October 10th, 2019 at the Coastal Crime Lab in Pooler, GA and will meet at GPSTC for the November 14th, 2019 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Mark Revenew
Secretary