

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
September 20, 2018  
Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Forsyth, Georgia

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Danny Bryant  
Mr. Steve D. Cronin-via conference call  
Commissioner Greg Dozier-via conference call  
Mr. George Hartwig  
Mr. Sam Heaton  
Commissioner Michael Nail-via conference call  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Mr. Charles D. Sikes  
Sheriff Joey Terrell-via conference call  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Kacy Cronan

**OTHERS:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Marc Godbey, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Shawn Prather, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Director Vernon Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Ms. Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Judy Couch, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Ray Saxon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Rodney Bostic, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Danny Stephens, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Mark Williams, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Mike Byrd, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mr. Marty Smith, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Johnny Irvin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Jeff Dean, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Scott Ard, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Ryan Brown, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Chris Whitehead, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Michael Turner, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, U.S. Embassy-Tbilisi, Georgia  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mrs. Maureen Bryant

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Mr. John Hutcheson gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to stand and introduce their self.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the August 2018 minutes. Mr. Lester Rampy made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully, and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety stated for the past few months, people have heard on the radio and TV about the hands free law and the comment there is a 90 day grace period, and there was really no 90 day grace period, spent those 90 days with public service announcements, trying to reform people the best they could. Commissioner McDonough stated across the board, law enforcement in the state have been as compassionate as they can be, and DPS statistics show the troopers and MCCD officers have been writing 3 warnings for every citation that has been issued. Commissioner McDonough noted that on October 1<sup>st</sup>, one can expect the compassion to be there, but the enforcement aspect will be a little tighter, as distracted driving is part of the DPS strategic plan and one of DPS's emphasis for enforcement and will not approach this like click-it or ticket was approached. Commissioner McDonough stated those that lived through the click-it or ticket, knows it was not approached right, and in fact, sociologists say that it takes 5-7 years to effect change in behavior. Commissioner McDonough stated this is not going to be a short time poll and when looking at the statistics done for seatbelts, one can see it took a while to change people's behavior, but for the most part everyone is wearing their seatbelt. Commissioner McDonough stated everyone has had an opportunity to look at their behavior, so one can expect a tighter enforcement from GSP and MCCD. Commissioner McDonough stated some of those that work for MCCD will look like homeless people underneath a bridge abutment on the interstate or broken down and changing a tire, and will be spotting commercial motor vehicles concerning the hands free law. Commissioner McDonough added there will be a lot of different techniques used with the intent of changing behavior that everyone sees in themselves and other people.

Commissioner McDonough stated the MCCD is establishing a level 6 inspection team that is specific to radiological nuclear detection, funded by DPS, and is being modeled after a similar team the Florida

Highway Patrol has put together. Commissioner McDonough added the team is an all hazards approach, where they have vehicles that are equipped with the equipment and can either be in a Tahoe or retro-fitted into a helicopter, have portable equipment that is on their belts as well as backpacks and if an inspection needs to be done where there is potential that there is misuse of radiological or nuclear material, it can be detected and the officers can act upon it. Commissioner McDonough stated this also gives MCCC the capability so that in large events, such as the Super Bowl or a National Championship Game, the Final Four, the GA Ports or anything that goes on, it is a team that can move into that area, set up on the side of the road and be able to screen traffic that is going by. Commissioner McDonough stated this is a capability that DPS felt FHP was very prudent in doing and intend to do the same thing in GA, noting GA is a crossroads of the southeast and thinks this capability will add to the all hazards approach that will be very beneficial, particularly in a homeland security role. Commissioner McDonough stated the equipment will be up and running prior to the Super Bowl and once it is all completed, will plan to display in the future at a BPS meeting. Commissioner McDonough noted the acronym for this is RNDT-Radiological Nuclear Detection Teams.

Commissioner McDonough stated preparation for the Super Bowl is ongoing and have over 229 people assigned and one official contact is from MARTA, who has written an initial letter and DPS has asked them for specifics and have not received any details back with what they would like help with. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged Atlanta Police Department is doing a fine job and will have a very large venue that will be extended around the park area outside of the stadium; there will be a lot of area to cover and lot of officers from different agencies to help manage the area.

Commissioner McDonough stated the Personal Support Facility is complete, the facility where an person that is on the road will be able to come to one location to get it done, whether it be a radio problem, camera problem, car repairs, supply, anything that deals with what they do, including to their computer getting flashed, they will be able to walk in, like a dealership, hand the keys to the person behind the desk and everything will be taken care of for them at this location. Commissioner McDonough stated BPS will be notified of the ribbon cutting date.

Vice-Chairman Wood commended Commissioner McDonough for his exemplary delivery at the MCCC graduation.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated the GBI investigates all of the use of force cases in the state, which involve death or serious bodily injury and also investigates for a number of agencies use of force where an officer discharges a firearm at a person. Director Keenan advised GBI averages two officer use of force cases per week. Director Keenan stated he wanted to know what the results of toxicology of the persons who died in use of force cases with the police, would be. Director Keenan presented a hand-out showing the results for 2017-2018 to date, there were 61 officer involved use of force cases which resulted in a person dying. Director Keenan stated the toxicology reports were pulled which showed in 13 of those cases, there were no drugs in the system of the deceased, but in 77% of those cases, 47% had drugs in their system. Director Keenan stated the drugs in their system was a combination of drugs such as opioids, heroine, Xanax, pharmaceutical combination of drugs and what is interesting to him is that 28% of positive drug cases involve

methamphetamine. Director Keenan stated law enforcement officers know what methamphetamine does to a person. Director Keenan acknowledged the concentration now in the nation and the state of Georgia is on the opioid addiction, because so many people are dying from opioid overdoses, more people die from opioid overdoses than traffic fatalities. Director Keenan stated opioids will kill someone, but methamphetamine will make one want to kill someone. Director Keenan stated the toxicology reports show him that many of the encounters that officers are having with persons where they have to use force, the persons are meth addicts on methamphetamine. Director Keenan stated the staff will be going back and pull the same data for five years where someone has died from a use of force case. Director Keenan stated it is a positive thing for being the crime lab for the state, as he knows what evidence is coming into the lab at any given time and what type evidence there is. Director Keenan stated this shows us that 40% of all the drugs submitted to the crime lab by law enforcement, 40% is methamphetamine, so methamphetamine is what is driving a lot of the violence that is being seen not only by law enforcement and domestic situations, a meth addict has a high use of child sex activity and high use of random violence. Director Keenan stated he put out a news release when the results first came in and received many calls from law enforcement officers thanking the GBI for stepping up and talking factually about officer use of force cases and some of the driving factors behind it.

Director Keenan reminded the BPS members of their invitation to the open house at the Cyber Center, Monday, at 1:00 p.m. in Augusta, GA. Director Keenan stated this is a world class facility and the governor had asked the GBI to put together a proposal last year for staffing an investigative unit in the cyber center and the staffing level calls for 28 staff, which is a combination of forensic digital investigators and GBI analysts. Director Keenan stated while at Mr. Hartwig's swearing-in at the Capitol, Governor Deal pulled him over to the side and asked him where the GBI was at, with the staffing that had been approved during the last legislature, noting they had only received 9 out of the 28 that was asked for. Director Keenan stated he told Governor Deal the GBI had hired everyone that he had approved and been funded and the next date, Director Keenan stated he received a call from the senior leadership at OPB and they told him to put in a white paper which outlines the staffing levels that the GBI did not get last year.

Vice-Chairman Wood questioned Director Keenan about meth labs in the rural areas. Director Keenan stated 10 years ago, the GBI seized 800 meth labs in Georgia and last year 12 meth labs were seized. Director Keenan added meth is coming from Mexico, being brought in by the Mexican Drug Cartel and is very cheap, very high quality and no longer does a meth addict have to manufacture their own meth in the small labs. Director Keenan stated the Mexican Drug Cartel also brings in heroin and Fentanyl and the methamphetamine is a violent causing drug.

Mr. Sam Heaton asked Director Keenan if any of the officer use of force fatalities have been looked at concerning mental health issues. Director Keenan acknowledged it is very difficult to determine unless a person has a record of being involuntarily hospitalized or if the family will tell us about the issues. Director Keenan stated this is an avenue that is pursued during the investigation, but is really an unknown factor. Director Keenan stated officers know if they are dealing with someone who has mental problems, but being able to prove this is very difficult. Director Keenan shared the GBI has

been contacted by a research professor of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NY, who wants to use GA data to do a study over officer use of force cases, and what is causing this and what are some of the trending patterns. Director Keenan stated the researcher came to us as the GBI is a sole source for this information and have a very robust open records act here. Director Keenan stated the GBI is in the process of sending the researcher information on closed cases that he will be doing a five year study on and should be very compelling. Director Keenan stated when this comes out, not only for the state of Georgia, there is a national data collection project, which will impact some of the tactics that are being used and will improve training and change policies. Director Keenan added agencies, to include the GBI are already changing policy as it relates to prior use of force, the GBI is training officers to not get in front of automobiles where the vehicle can come directly at them and wind up using force and this comes from cases that have occurred in GA and can see there is a better way this could have been done.

Mr. George Hartwig asked Director Keenan if there is a way to know if the use of force cases are alcohol related or alcohol and drugs combined related and Director Keenan stated he would go back and look at the previous cases, as alcohol should be included.

Vice-Chairman Wood encouraged everyone to attend the open house at the Cyber Center.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center recognized the GPSTC Fire Academy instructors that were present who train around 30,000 firefighters around the state.

Director Wigginton stated there were 12 different basic academy classes going on this week, with two more starting Sunday, and will be busy on the basic side of the house for the next several weeks. Director Wigginton stated last year the GPSTC finished with about 225,000 students and included in those numbers are national and international partnerships. Director Wigginton recognized Mr. Mike Turner of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, U. S. Embassy – Tbilisi, Georgia with whom the GPSTC has built relationships throughout the years with the Republic of Georgia who had 21 students on campus for the last three weeks. Concerning the national partnership, Director Wigginton advised there were seven driving instructors here last week from the Houston, Texas area. Director Wigginton stated he believes his curriculum is doing things right in the state of Georgia and is receiving national and international attention in that area.

In regards to the Super Bowl, Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC has been contacted by the Metro Area SWAT Team Association, 41 different tactical teams assigned to the Super Bowl to start the process of them working together and training and the GPSTC will facilitate what they need.

Director Wigginton advised GPSTC has been contacted by the Atlanta Police Department for facilities and training of an original multi field force team, three mobile field force teams for training.

Chief Craig Tully commended the Fire Academy instructors who go all over the state, taking training to volunteers, and from the fire side out in the field, Chief Tully thanked them and appreciates what they do very much.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked GPSTC for hosting the BPS meeting.

**DONATIONS**

Major Jason Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One Stalker XLR-C LIDAR unit	\$	2,312.50	Camden Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,078.50	Taliaferro Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One DragonEye DESL Laser X5	\$	2,300.00	Northern Judicial Circuit DA's Office
Monetary Donation	\$	1,500.00	Kiwanis Club of Statesboro

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

Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donations:

Pallets	\$	125.00	Cutting Edge Landscaping
1998 Ford Cutaway Van E4	\$	2,000.00	City of Forest Park
Kustom Industries Speed Trailer	\$	500.00	Hall Co. Sheriff's Dept.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Director Sam Heaton, and voted approved by the Board members.

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 FY2017 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 29 violations reported during FY2017. Mr. Kirk presented the request for approval of actions taken to resolve security policy violations for FY2017 to the BPS members for their approval.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to accept the GCIC's recommendations for the FY2017 CJIS Security Policy Violations, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes, and voted approved by the Board members.

GBI Assistant Director Dan Kirk presented the FY2018 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 24 violations reported during FY2018. Mr. Kirk presented the request for approval of actions taken to resolve security policy violations for FY2018 to the BPS members for their approval.

Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., made the motion to accept the GCIC's recommendations for the FY2018 CJIS Security Policy Violations, which was seconded by Director Sam Heaton, 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 advised Director Sam Heaton has agreed to serve on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council as a representative for the Board of Public Safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised there will not be an October meeting, the November meeting will be at Kings Bay and the December meeting at DPS HQ.

Mr. Charles Sikes shared he had an opportunity to address a group of firemen regarding 9/11 and had to review 9/11 information. In regards to the fire service at the Twin Towers, there were 70 or 80 NYPD and Port police officers that died as a result of the towers collapsing. Mr. Sikes stated in the history of the New York Fire Department, there had been 700 deaths up to the date of 9/11 and on that date there were 350 firemen that died when the towers collapsed. Mr. Sikes shared as he watched the news on that day, the firemen were going up the towers laden down with hoses and ropes in that hot environment and many of the people coming down, later remarked the firemen were exhausted as they passed them. Mr. Sikes stated as he watched this on TV, it occurred to him that they were going to their death, but they were going to try and help someone.

Director Sam Heaton congratulated the GPSTC on the active shooter forum that was put on, it was a large group of people, multi-faceted as far as fire, law enforcement, EMS, 911, and hospitals. Director Heaton stated it was a great forum that was put on and a lot of good information and knowledge came from it and well put together for great training in the future for everyone.

Vice-Chairman Wood encouraged everyone to attend the trooper school graduation with 48 graduates in the morning.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Chief Mark Revenew  
Secretary