

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

April 14, 2011

The Glennville Garden Club Center - Glennville, GA

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Chief Jon Canada  
Chief Louis M. Dekmar  
Mr. Patrick H. Head  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Commissioner Brian Owens  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Sheriff H. Cullen Talton  
Mr. Gerald T. Willis  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood  
,

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sheriff Steven D. Cronic

**OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl Buie, Board Liaison  
Captain Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Lt. Allen Marlowe, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Corporal Jerry Pimentel, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Sergeant Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Assistant Director Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Deputy Director Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Deputy Director Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Director Ken Vance, Peace Officers Standard Training Council  
Mrs. Maureen Bryant  
Colonel Rueben McGhee, Houston County Sheriff's Office  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mrs. Debra Willis  
Department of Corrections' Board Members  
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Department of Corrections  
Department of Corrections' Employees  
Chairman James Donald, Pardons and Parole Board  
Pardon and Parole Board Employees  
Mayor Jean Bridges, City of Glennville

Director Harris Blackwood, Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
Deputy Director Spencer Moore, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the joint meeting to order and asked everyone to give a round of applause to the cooks and servers of the delicious steak meal.

Vice-Chairman Wood called on Rev. Rick Lanford to give the devotional and Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood called on Mr. Wayne Dasher, co-host for the meeting to speak. Mr. Dasher recognized those that set-up, decorated and prepared the meal for the meeting. Mr. Dasher then went on to recognize local people of the area. Mr. Dasher introduced Mr. Harris Blackwood, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for the approval of the March 2011 Board minutes. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion, which was seconded by Chief Jon Canada and voted approval by the Board members.

### **DIRECT REPORTS**

Captain Russell Powell, Interim Commanding Officer, Georgia State Patrol on behalf of Colonel Hitchens began by speaking about Corporal Chad LeCroy who was killed in the line of duty in December 2010. Captain Powell stated that Cpl LeCroy's family continues to be honored by different individuals and groups and the family and the State Patrol is very appreciative of all that is being done to honor Cpl LeCroy. Captain Powell stated there was a tribute this past week at Post 48 by the Fallen Heroes Memorial Tour with a great turnout; this was a moving memorial on a 24 foot trailer with the names of 625 Georgia law enforcement officers that have been killed in the line of duty in the state's history. Captain Powell went on to say that there was a good turnout and Corporal LeCroy's name was unveiled; this is sponsored by the Blue Knights and the Georgia COPS Association Concerns of Police Survivors who will also be sponsoring a ride to raise money this coming Saturday.

Captain Powell told the Board members that the Police Unity Tour will be coming up in May which is part of the National Police Week in Washington, DC. This is for the officers killed in the line of duty all over the US and DPS has a team who continues to raise funds that will participate in the 200 mile bike ride that will end at the memorial. Captain Powell advised that LTC Mark McDonough, Lt. Joey Brown, Lt. Derrick Durden, SFC Gary Sharpton, SFC Jason Johnson, Sgt. Richard Harper, Sgt. Garrett Fiveash, Corporal Crystal Griffin, Corporal Jonathan Barrett, TFC Scott Jeter and TFC Jason Bradburn are on the DPS team.

Captain Powell stated that DPS continues to raise money for Corporal LeCroy's family by establishing an account at the Credit Union, selling challenge coins and bumper stickers that commemorate Cpl LeCroy's service. All the proceeds go into the account at the Credit Union.

Captain Powell stated that DPS assisted during the tragic event in Athens-Clarke County where two officers were shot, one was injured and one killed. DPS responded immediately, assisting with the man-hunt for four days. After the capture of the suspect and the funeral of Officer Christian, nine of the DPS Peer Support Team members were deployed spending time debriefing officers and providing support.

Captain Powell spoke about the Biker Awareness Safety Grant, a federal grant available through NHTSA stating that two biker safety education road checks have been held, one at the Forsyth Weigh Station and the other at the Savannah Weigh Station and were very successful.

Captain Powell advised the Board members of the request for support on a lot of special details, a lot of escorts some government related. DPS will be assisting with the Heart and Soul of Georgia Bus Tour, the Red Carpet Tour and the 2011 VIP Tour, events that economic development is related to which brings a lot of business to our state. Captain Powell added that GSP would be assisting with the Boys State and Girls State at Georgia Southern and during March assisted Savannah with the St. Patrick's Day Parade which is the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the nation.

Captain Powell added that DPS has assisted with the wild fires in Clinch, Long, Coffee and Bacon counties.

Captain Powell advised that the 88<sup>th</sup> Georgia State Patrol Trooper School began on April 11<sup>th</sup>, starting off with 60 cadets and now down to 42 cadets.

Captain Powell spoke about the partnership with GOHS where GSP is providing Spanish public service announcements and TV spots related to Cinco de Mayo aimed at targeting drinking and driving, Captain Powell added that GSP has a few troopers that speak Spanish fluently.

Captain Powell spoke about the Customer Service Awards presented to four department members; Post secretary of P38 Rome, Audrey Burch, Sgt. Harold Tisdale assigned to the Capitol Police detail, TFC Shaun Sutherland of P3 Cartersville and Sergeant Garret Fiveash of the Training Division. Captain Powell advised that CSA Terri Kilgore of Troop A Communications and TFC Chris Carlisle of the CIU will receive a Customer Service Award on April 28<sup>th</sup>. In regards to the MADD Awards Banquet, TFC Thomas Kustra of the DUI Nighthawks won the DUI Hero Award for the year and additionally was recognized as the statewide officer of the year as he had 415 DUI arrests for the year. Three GSP posts were recognized; P27 Blue Ridge won the Post of the year award for a little over 200 DUI arrests, Post 25 Thomson had 465 DUI arrests and Post 31 Valdosta had 410 DUI arrests. Captain Powell added that the troopers are really going out to try and make the highway safer in regards to the DUIs.

Captain Powell stated that DPS is entering into a partnership with the GBI and DNR as GSP will be participating in 9 sessions of training on Crisis Intervention Training which will begin in July and will be concluded by December. 90 troopers will participate in this training and this will be a team that will be taught to recognize mental illnesses and brain disorders when they are involved in incidents while

answering calls, they will be able to recognize the problems as they are dealing with one of these issues rather than the typical criminal.

Captain Powell stated that the Department had set a goal for every trooper to become a certified Child Safety Technician by July 1, 2011 and is on course to meet the goal as this is a big accomplishment. This is a four day class and NHTSA will recognize the troopers as a technician once the course has been completed. The goal for next year is to have every sworn member of DPS obtain this certification as well. Captain Powell added that car crashes are the number one killer for children under 14 years of age in this country and DPS feels like we can make a difference by becoming proficient as a child safety technician.

Captain Powell told the Board members there will be a change in Headquarters access beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, as the Lester Avenue gate will close and will reopen the old entrance at HQ where the guard shack is located and it will be manned. This is due to the National Guard moving some of their operations to another location.

Captain Powell stated that DPS is in the process of doing the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary album and encouraged the Board members as well as retirees to participate. DPS would also welcome any old DPS photos.

Captain Powell stated that Post 3 Cartersville should be ready for its dedication possibly before the next BPS meeting, Post 10 Americus's dedication will be shortly and Post 2 LaGrange will have a ground breaking very soon and additionally a post suffered some water damage in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars due to a faulty fixture and the manufacture will cover the loss and make the repairs.

Captain Powell stated that DPS will receive a few more Ford Crown Vics, but the Crown Vics will no longer be made after March 30<sup>th</sup> and DPS plans to continue with the purchase of the Dodge patrol cars.

## **DONATIONS**

Captain Powell on behalf of Mr. Joe Hood, Comptroller for DPS requested approval of the following donations:

Two (2) Stalker DSR-2X Radars	\$4,390.00	Tunnel Hill Police Department
Fuel money	\$4,066.73	Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Fuel money	\$ 159.83	Hart County Sheriff's Office
Fuel money	\$ 333.98	Habersham County Sheriff's Office
One (1) Laser Atlanta Laser Unit	\$1,500.00	GOHS
Two (2) Stalker DSR-2X Radars	\$5,990.00	GOHS

Minutes of Board of Public Safety

April 14, 2011

Page 5

Window tinting for 9 patrol cars	\$1,305.00	Chattooga County Sheriff's Office
One (1) Pro-Laser III Laser	\$3,081.00	Trion Police Department
Fuel money	\$5,000.00	Liberty County Sheriff's Office
One (1) Stalker DSR-2X Radar	\$3,010.00	Oconee Drug Task Force

The motion for these donations was made by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, seconded by Mr. Rooney Bowen, III and voted approved by the Board members.

Rev. Rick Lanford asked for a moment of silence and prayer for Cpl LeCroy, Officer Christian and the other officers who have given their life while serving the great State of Georgia.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director for the GBI on behalf of Director Keenan began by stating that the GBI was coming out pretty good concerning the budget climate. Assistant Director Kirk stated the only surprise that the GBI had was the loss of some of the stimulus money recovery from the federal government as this is going away and thought the GBI would get all of it back, but the state is going to keep 3% of this which amounts to around \$184,000.00 for the GBI which will be absorbed in different ways. Mr. Kirk advised that GBI did get 5 positions back from retirement as GBI thought this would be lost which is certainly a plus. Most of the bond packages that were requested were kept in tact with the exception of one and this has to do with the replacement of our radios. In 2013, the FCC has said that GBI will lose circuit band width and we will have to have new radios. GBI had a 2.9 million dollar bond package to replace the radios and this was cut in half which will cause us to have to come back before the legislature next year in order to try and get the rest of the money. All in all everything turned out OK as far as the budget goes.

Mr. Kirk spoke about Operation Innocent Justice where federal, state and local partners looks at child pornography and those that share this over the internet and this past week or so we had a big take down, serving 97 search warrants across the state. 160 local law enforcement agencies participated in this along with the Secret Service, the US Attorney's office, the US Marshall's office, the USPS people, ICE, FBI and out of this came 66 arrests and the seizure of 176 hard drives and received an additional 1000 other digital media and had 63 on site previews. Mr. Kirk explained that the onsite previews involves computer forensic specialists at the scene and while law enforcement secures the scene, the specialists are taking the computer apart forensically at the scene and pulling out the images which will help with the interview process and make the arrest at that time. Mr. Kirk stated that kiddie porn is prevalent in this state and it is horrible and not that GA is any worse than anyone else, the State of Georgia will not tolerate it. Mr. Kirk shared that he went out with a particular group that searched the home of a guy in his 20s that had over 55 videos, actual movies on his computer of pre puberty child pornography, engaged in all sorts of sex acts, it is just unbelievable what these people share over the internet. This particular person had a prior arrest for having sex with a minor when he was 18 years old.

Mr. Kirk related that Director Keenan was on site from the very beginning of the Athens-Clark County police officer shootings and the capture of Mr. Jamie Hood. There was a lot of participation and cooperation from federal, state and local law enforcement. Mr. Kirk thanked Director Keenan for what he did during this tragedy.

Mr. Dan Kirk presented a Resolution requesting that the Law Department and State Properties Commission prepare and process appropriate documents authorizing the deeding of .28 acres of real property in Thomson, McDuffie County from the County of McDuffie to the State of Georgia, in custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, to provide access to a new GBI Region 7 Investigative Office Crime Scene Specialists Garage.

The motion for the resolution was made by Chief Lou Dekmar, seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and voted approved by the Board members.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began by presenting a Resolution requesting and authorizing the renaming of Beaver Dam Extension at Northeast Georgia Police Academy to Buddy Christian Way in honor of fallen Athens-Clark Senior Police Officer Elmer "Buddy" Christian.

The motion for the resolution was made by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. and voted approved by the Board members.

Director Mann stated that he and Vice-Chairman Wood met with Mr. Ron Jackson of the Technical College System of Georgia and were assured that they have no plans this year to close any of the six pilot police academies. There is some question as to how some of the funding will come about, whether they can actually reduce how much they are charging the students or go back to the formula they had before. Director Mann added that if we can keep this system alive there is coming a day where a student can go to basic training and not have the state provide the training after one has been hired. With the reduction in funding for HOPE, if the formula is changed they would actually go from \$233.00 a credit hour down to \$40.00 a credit hour. If this does happen with this program it will be hard to keep the program alive, but for the next year it looks like we have the assurance from Commissioner Ron Jackson that the program will continue.

## **DONATIONS**

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Training Center requested approval of the following donations:

Two (2) Ford Crown Vic patrol vehicles	\$2,730.00	Cherokee County Bd of Commissioners
---	------------	-------------------------------------

The motion for these donations was made by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked all Board of Public Safety members to stand and introduce themselves.

There being no further business, the Board of Public Safety meeting was adjourned. The Board of Corrections called their meeting to order.

---

Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Secretary