

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 12, 2012

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
Sheriff Steven D. Cronic
Mr. C. Murray Kight
Chief Bill Myers
Commissioner Brian Owens
Chief Irene Pennington
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Mr. Brian M. Rickman
Sheriff Gary C. Vowell
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Sheriff Dane Kirby

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl Buie, Board Liaison
Mr. Sam Olens-Attorney General
Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Allen Marlowe, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Terry Rehberg, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Jamie Sullivan, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Wayne Beck, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Ricky Chambless, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Gene Davis, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Mr. Gordy Wright, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Robert Orange, Department of Public Safety
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Director Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
SAC Craig Rotter, Region 5, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
ASAC Cathy Sapp, Region 5, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Timothy Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Deputy Director Bill Bryant, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Deputy Director Michael Parkerson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

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Mr. Chase Jones, Governmental Affairs, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Executive Assistant, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Director Ken Vance, Peace Officers Standard Training Council
Mrs. Maureen Bryant
Mrs. Louise Rampy
Mrs. Rachel Kight
Mrs. Cathy Rehberg
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 Chris Roessler, City of Glennville
Reverend Mike Howard, Glennville First Baptist Church
Director Harris Blackwood, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Deputy Director Spencer Moore, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. Barbara C. Howell, Executive Director of CJCC
Mr. Floyd Taylor, Department of Agriculture
Mr. Taylor Williams, Department of Agriculture
Judge A. Rahn, III, Liberty County Superior Court
DA Richard Mallard, Ogeechee Circuit
Judge Gates Peed, Bulloch County Superior Court

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the April 12th, 2012 Board of Public Safety meeting to order and asked Secretary Canada to confirm there was a quorum of the BPS members. Secretary Canada confirmed there was a quorum for the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for the approval of the March 2012 Board minutes. Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the March 2012 BPS minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approval by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood called on Mr. Harris Blackwood, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and strong advocate for the BPS and the entire state to come before the group and say a few words.

DIRECT REPORTS

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety shared a personal tradition that he would like to fulfill this year with General Donald. Commissioner McDonough stated he had known General Donald for eight years and we call him General because he had an illustrious career in the United States Army, a service for which Commissioner McDonough respects, but added that he is a

Naval Academy graduate and the Navy has beaten West Point 10 years in a row so Commissioner McDonough told General Donald –“Go Navy, Beat Army”.

Commissioner McDonough thanked Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation for allowing his agents to participate with the DPS and the DNR for the first three weeks in May in Suspicious Activity Reporting exercises across the state. Commissioner McDonough added that GBI agents and troopers will be riding with DNR rangers all over the state looking at critical infrastructures and keeping an eye out for the general public safety.

Commissioner McDonough personally thanked GOHS Director Harris Blackwood as the GOHS has partnered with DPS in a third DUI Nighthawks Task Force, which will be the Middle GA Task Force with 6 troopers that will be covering the Macon-Bibb County area and the Columbus-Muscogee County area. Commissioner McDonough remarked that at a news conference someone asked if the task force would be effective and relayed that last Friday night, 6 troopers made 28 DUIs in one night in Columbus and was so effective, that one of the troopers on the way out from one arrest met a gentleman going in the wrong way to the Sheriff’s Department and he was drunk too.

Commissioner McDonough stated every year a report is compiled of the Pursuit Activity. Commissioner McDonough added that last year troopers were involved in 464 high speed pursuits in the state. The profile of those involved in the pursuits is a male, 30 yrs of age, usually drunk, their driver’s license is suspended and they are usually wanted which is pretty consistent. Commissioner McDonough added that DPS has a four hour course in decision making every single year that the troopers receive and because of this, their decision making when they are in pursuit, guides what they are going to do. Only about 25% of the time, do the troopers actually use the PIT maneuver to end the pursuit. Commissioner McDonough declared this year was a difficult year but is a reflection of where we are in law enforcement as in two of those instances the violators actually shot at the troopers and in the past two years, troopers have been involved in 22 trooper involved shootings. Commissioner McDonough noted in September of last year in a five day period of time the troopers were involved in three shootings and that last year was the first time in this country that more police officers were killed by gunfire than they were in automobile accidents. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged with the job that the deputies, the troopers, the GBI agents and the police department officers are doing today; we are being told that violent crime is down, but the violence against the officers is going up. Commissioner McDonough remarked that all though this report is something that DPS does on an annual basis and something that reflects a job out there; it reflects how difficult and how dangerous the job is that the officers do.

Commissioner McDonough took a point of personal privilege to recognize Joe Hood and asked him to come forward. Commissioner McDonough advised that yesterday Mr. Hood informed him that he is going to go to work for another agency, declaring this will be a personal loss for DPS but it is a great day for law enforcement as Joe will be the representative at Office of Planning and Budget and for the first time in which Commissioner McDonough does not know when, we will actually be able to call a guy and he will know what we are talking about. Commissioner McDonough remarked that everyone in the room knows Joe Hood whether being on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, if one has

been involved in Drug Task Forces, or if you are with the Department of Corrections everybody knows that Joe has a wonderful mind. Joe is a person that solves problems and always does it in a positive way and Commissioner McDonough stated he cannot think of a better choice that the Governor made to go to OPB to represent law enforcement. Commissioner McDonough congratulated Joe Hood.

Mr. Hood stated it was with some regret that he made the decision to take the job at OPB as he has had a great time at the DPS. Mr. Hood stated he believes this will be a career path that will be very good for him and this will be his last BPS meeting in his now official capacity here as May 1, 2012 will be his first day at OPB. Mr. Hood thanked Commissioner McDonough for the comments and looks forward to working with everyone in the room as the Division Director for General Government and Public Safety.

DPS DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Comptroller for DPS requested approval of the following donations:

Fuel Money	\$ 600.00	Franklin County Sheriff's Office
(2) Kustom ProLaser 4 Lasers	\$7,400.00	Cook County Board of Commissioners
Fuel money	\$1,200.00	Colquitt City Council
Fuel money	\$9,500.00	Oglethorpe Co. Board of Commissioners
(1) Raptor, RP-1 Radar	\$2,037.00	Treutlen County Sheriff's Office
(2) Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$5,990.00	Braselton Police Department
(1) Stalker Radar Unit	\$3,012.50	Coffee Co. Board of Commissioners
Fuel Money	\$6,000.00	Richland Police Department
(1) Stalker DSR-2X Radar	\$2,274.50	Walker Co. Board of Commissioners
(1) Kustom Signals ProLaser III	\$2,495.00	Conyers Police Department

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the DPS donations that had been emailed to all BPS members for their review. Mr. Hood advised there was a total of ten donations for \$40,509.00. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to accept the DPS donations, which was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and was voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated it was a great pleasure to be here today and to outline the excellent legislation agenda that was completed at the last General Assembly. Director Keenan reminded the Board members of his earlier reports involving the discussion of one of the gravest drug problems facing the state of Georgia with synthetic drugs/marijuana. Director Keenan stated the Governor supported the legislation that the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs have promoted and the legislation was written by the State Crime Laboratory to address the molecular compounds that were in the synthetic drugs. Director Keenan emphasized when the bill was passed by the legislature, Governor Deal called for it immediately and signed the bill in his office and then law enforcement went to work removing the synthetic drugs off of the shelves in the stores and addressing this problem.

Director Keenan advised the other legislation that the Governor supported was the Sovereign Citizen bill which addresses the issue of anti government people filing false liens against law enforcement and other public officials.

Director Keenan added that these are two great law and order bills will be great support to public safety in the state.

Director Keenan remarked that Chief Justice Hunstein had outlined one of the measures in the Criminal Justice Reform Program concerning weight based drug sentencing and the Crime Lab has looked at the issues and has provided a budget to the Governor and to the General Assembly as to what it would cost in the form of GBI resources to address the weight based drug sentencing. Director Keenan stated during the last week of the General Assembly he received a telephone call from Governor Deal's office and stated that Governor Deal had worked with the General Assembly to put 1.2 million dollars in the GBI budget to hire scientists to do the first stage of the weight based drug sentencing, which will be for cocaine and methamphetamine. Director Keenan added that at a later time all drugs will come under the scope of the weight based drug sentencing.

Director Keenan confirmed that the Governor and the General Assembly has approved the funding to hire 27 scientists currently working on a federal grant and the GBI agents and scientists will receive a pay raise, the first in seven years. Director Keenan stated that over a three year period of time, the General Assembly has committed to raise the salaries of the agents and the scientists to stop the turnover rate which is in the GBI agency, basically a 10% turnover rate of scientists and agents.

Director Keenan reemphasized what Commissioner McDonough said about the danger to law enforcement; as in the last 24 hours the GBI has been called in to investigate two separate police shootings in different parts of the state. On an average of one a week, the GBI is investigating police shootings and this is an example of how dangerous it is in the state of Georgia and throughout the US. Director Keenan remarked that all the officers no matter what agency they work for, he advised them to be safe.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stated that there is a need for more driver training in the state and also a need for another high speed track in the state and in a very short period of time, several counties have reached out to the GPSTC with preliminary talks and want to see

what they can do to help GPSTC put another high speed track in the state and as the talks move forward, Director Bearden stated he would keep the BPS members advised. Director Bearden stated that driver training is so vital and through the GOHS we looked at the stats for a five year average and the stats showed there were 3800 police involved accidents per year with 1800 injuries and averaged 13 fatalities per year. Director Bearden stated the stats are too high and we need to do more training to keep this from occurring.

Director Bearden advised GPSTC did receive an increase in bond money and will be putting a PIT road at the GPSTC, hoping to break ground in the near future to allow more training on PIT.

Touching base on the technical schools in regards to basic mandate training, Director Bearden advised it will be left up to the individual technical school if they want to continue with the basic mandate training.

Director Bearden stated the roof repair is going very well, moving very quickly on the project and the contractors are working 24 hours a day.

Director Bearden advised that the awning at the front of the building has been taken down and on Monday, DOC Commissioner Owens crew will be working on the area to make it look more attractive. Director Bearden gave a shout out to DOT for taking the awning down and doing a great job which saved the GPSTC well over \$100,000.00.

Director Bearden stated that GPSTC in Forsyth went a little Hollywood as the Vampire Diaries filmed a TV show which will be airing sometime this month and on NBC this Saturday night at 8:00 pm, The Escape Routes will have some filming of GPSTC on their show.

GPSTC DONATIONS

KKII-Kitchen Knight II Fire Suppression System	\$1,700.00	Cliff's Fire Extinguisher Co., Inc.
Monarch Fire Suppression System	\$2,000.00	Cliff's Fire Extinguisher Co., Inc.
R-102 Fire Suppression System	\$1,700.00	Cliff's Fire Extinguisher Co., Inc.
Monetary Donation-Arson Program Only	\$1,000.00	GA Fire Investigators Assoc.

The motion to accept the donations was made by Mr. Danny Bryant, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approved by the Board members.

Chief Jon Canada presented a Resolution to former BPS member Jerry Willis thanking him for his service to the Board of Public Safety and the state of Georgia.

Mr. Willis stated he was honored to have served on the Board of Public Safety and continues to be honored to serve on the Board of Corrections.

Vice-Chairman Wood on behalf of the BPS thanked Mr. Dasher for his hospitality and putting the meeting together.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members that Commissioner Owens will be hosting the May 10th BPS meeting at the Jackson State Prison.

Vice-Chairman Wood also reminded the BPS of the breakfast next morning.

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

Jon Canada
Secretary