

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
National Guard Armory-Glenngville, Georgia

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Danny Bryant  
Chief Danny D. Bowman  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Commissioner Brian Owens  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Mr. Brian M. Rickman  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Chief Bill Myers, IV

**OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Beth Burton, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Gene Davis, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Capt. Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Capt. Robert Phillips, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety  
Sgt. Kevin Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Corporal Jerry Pimentel, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Keith Howard, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Joe Hood, Office of Planning and Budget and employees  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mrs. Rachel Kight  
Mr. Wayne Beck  
GA Dept. of Corrections Board Members and employees  
Pardon and Parole Board members and employees

Director Harris Blackwood, GOHS and employees

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the April 18th, 2013 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked the BPS members to stand and state their name.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the March Board minutes. Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approval by the Board members.

**Department of Public Safety**

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety presented Captain Robert Phillips with his 30 year service pin and certificate.

Commissioner McDonough shared his wife wants chickens so he stopped by and toured Vice-Chairman Wood's chicken coop; a retirement home for poultry, which has an air-conditioned area, a recreation area and a medical facility. With this, Commissioner McDonough stated what this brings to mind is what he wants to bring before the BPS and the group today. Commissioner McDonough stated in this country we tend to treat our animals better than we do each other. Commissioner McDonough added there is not a person in the room that would take a look at their organization and say the most important thing we have is our people. Commissioner McDonough shared three years ago, the DPS started a Peer Support Group and Commissioner McDonough introduce Lt. Andy Carrier, who had previously served as the Troop E Assistant Commander and now heads the office of Wellness and Safety within the DPS and serves as the Peer Support leader.

Lt. Andy Carrier shared a video clip of Georgia's first Post Critical Incident Seminar in Augusta, Georgia with first responders from Sandy Hook, Columbine, Virginia Tech and many more. Lt. Carrier advised the seminar was led by fellow officers who have been through tragedies and also mental health professionals. Lt. Carrier went on to share how the Peer Support team works and who they have helped in the last three years.

Lt. Andy Carrier introduced Department of Corrections Officer Mark Zamnuick who shared his personal story and how PCIS helped him.

Lt. Carrier shared an anonymous letter from one of the participants in the PCIS who expressed how much the PCIS helped him and Lt. Carrier added that being part of the team will be the most meaningful thing that he will ever do in his life and his career.

Commissioner McDonough stated if one goes to the IACP website and goes to their officer safety and wellness page, the IACP has essentially broken down the career of all public safety individuals into four parts; recruitment, early career, advanced career and retirement, and in every one of the stages, the number one thing that is recommended is Peer Support. Commissioner McDonough added by

statue, the DPS is a support agency and if one needs the SWAT team, the Aviation unit, and if the PEER Support team is needed we will bring it to those in need.

**Donations**

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Cash Donation-DPS Honor Guard	\$	250.00	Ms. Sandra Bartlett
(1) Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,057.00	Taliaferro County Sheriff's Dept.
(2) Dragoneye Compact Speed Laser Units	\$	4,990.00	Lilburn Police Dept.
(2) Dragoneye Compact Speed Laser Units	\$	4,990.00	Suwanee Police Dept.
(1) Kustom Signal Pro Laser III	\$	3,050.00	Snellville Police Dept.
(2) Dragoneye Compact Speed Laser Units	\$	4,990.00	Lawrenceville Police Dept.
Funds for Associated Expenses of VFW National Convention	\$	2,000.00	Veterans of Foreign Wars of GA
(2) Hewlett Packard p2-1310 Desktop Computers	\$	635.98	Whitfield County DA Office

**Withdrawal of Donation**

K-9 Belgian Malinois	\$	12,500.00	Dooly County Sheriff's Dept.
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The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Danny Bryant, which was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and voted approved by the Board members.

**General Obligation Bond Resolution**

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety came before the BPS members presenting a General Obligation Bond Resolution in the amount of \$6,575,000.00.

Mr. C. Murray Kight made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the DPS, which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **Georgia Bureau of Investigation**

Director Vernon M. Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his report by sharing the month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and updated the BPS members on an operation that has been ongoing for the last week. Director Keenan stated beginning in January, the GBI in partnership with the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force, began an operation in which 98 persons were identified who were engaged in the distribution and possession of child pornography. Director Keenan stated during the operation, 98 search warrants were executed simultaneously, which was a major operation, involving 47 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies participating in executing the warrants. Director Keenan emphasized the warrants were for persons who the task force knew were in possession of large amounts of child pornography. Director Keenan added the task force is led by the GBI and comprised of 180 local law enforcement agencies that have been trained and equipped by the GBI through a Department of Justice grant. Director Keenan declared the agencies work collectively together and one of things the task force does is track known child pornography as it is exchanged over the internet and the way the GBI knows the known child pornography is because there are actual databases of information maintained in a national registry. Director Keenan emphasized the agencies know for certainty the child depicted in the photograph or the video is a child under age and it is child pornography; tracking this over the internet. Director Keenan stated the task force knows for certain that when it goes to a certain IP address, they are 99% certain that when the task force goes to that address and seizes the device, there will be child pornography. Director Kennan advised that child pornography, photographs and videos of young children being raped and sexually abused and the person they are going after will have large amounts of pornography, buying, trading, and distributing it. Director Keenan advised there have been 48 arrests in the operation and will be other arrests forthcoming, as it takes time to go through the 230 computers and devices that the GBI has received. As the GBI goes through this, Director Keenan declared the task force is getting the worse of the worse persons involved in this horrendous crime in the state of Georgia. Director Keenan added the vast majority of those arrested will plead guilty, because when the GBI has them, we got them, they do not want to go before a jury with the evidence that would be presented against them. Director Keenan related Governor Nathan Deal and Commissioner Owens have both assured him there will always be prison space in Georgia for persons that abuse the children of the state of Georgia. Director Keenan advised the operation will continue for another couple of weeks as the task force analyzes evidence to make additional arrests. Director Keenan stressed the GBI could not do this without the local law enforcement partners and since the task force was created in 2002, the task force has made nearly 1,000 arrests of persons that are in the business of sexual exploiting the children in Georgia.

### **General Obligation Bond Resolution**

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation came before the BPS members presenting a General Obligation Bond Resolution in the amount of \$1,595,000.00 for three major projects with the first being to replace the AFIS system in the Savannah Crime Lab for \$345,000.00, facility repairs statewide for \$305,000.00 and replace 30 investigative vehicles statewide and raise mileage on vehicles from 135,000 to 200,000 for \$945,000.00.

