

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
National Guard Armory-Glenngville, Georgia

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Chief Danny D. Bowman  
Mr. Danny Bryant  
Commissioner Homer Bryson  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Mr. Lester L. Rumpy, Jr.  
Mr. Brian Rickman  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Mr. Steve Cronic  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Sheriff Joey Terrell

**OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Capt. Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Derick Durden, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Chad Riner, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Sammy Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Ken DeLoach, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Marcus DeLoach, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Neil DeLoach, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Clint Durrence, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Olivia Duke, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Natalie Austin, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Kelly Martin, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Allison Hodge, Department of Public Safety  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mrs. Louise Rampy

Mrs. Rachel Kight

Mrs. Joan Kennan

Mr. John Fleisch, Office of Planning and Budget

GA Dept. of Corrections Board members and employees

GA Dept. of Juvenile Justice Board members and employees

Pardon and Parole Board members and employees

Director Harris Blackwood, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Mr. Jim Andrews, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Mrs. Linda Griffin, Glennville Sentinel

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the April 16th, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Mr. Wayne Dasher, the National Guard, DOC Commissioner Homer Bryson and the DOC staff for hosting the event today.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked the BPS members to stand and state their name. Vice-Chairman Wood introduced GOHS Director Harris Blackwood who then introduced GOHS Deputy Director Jim Andrews.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated the BPS had a special presentation to Mr. Brian Owens and when looking out around the room, there is not anyone present today could not say something Archie Jordan wrote in a song year ago and that is "What a Difference You Have Made in My Life". Vice-Chairman Wood stated Mr. Brian Owens has signified that to each of us personally, the BPS Board and the DOC Board who are very grateful for his service and has now moved to the Board of Pardons and Parole and are grateful to have Commissioner Homer Bryson as the DOC Commissioner. Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. Brian Rickman to present a Resolution to Mr. Owens.

Mr. Brian Rickman shared as a young person who is still in the formative years of his career, there are a lot of honors that go along with the governor allowing him to serve on the BPS, but one of the most important parts is for a young person who is still maturing, still learning about public safety, still trying to do a good job is to be in a room with people like Colonel Mark McDonough, Director Vernon Keenan, Mr. Joe Drolet; people who have been there and done that, whom you can learn from and certainly people like Brian Owens, as everybody in the room has given something to this state, but very few have given as much as Brian Owens. Mr. Rickman noted there are so many impressive things that can be said and will be said by many others and if one has ever been to Jackson and toured the prison, one would be challenged to find a Department of Corrections anywhere in the nation that has done more, not only did Commissioner Owens see the DOC through the economic downturn, not only did he maintain what he had, but he then completely turned the ship around to adjust to the new model of criminal justice reform. Mr. Rickman stated very few leaders innovate in a crisis, Georgia innovated during a crisis, through a lot of team work, but certainly due to the leadership with somebody like Brian Owens and is very humbling and very much his honor to read and present the Resolution on behalf of the BPS. Mr. Rickman stated Brian Owens is a person he looks up to.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 minutes. Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **Department of Public Safety**

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety noted the DPS has embarked on a mission in conjunction with the GBI. Commissioner McDonough stated the Texas DPS is moving nationally to put a dent in the human sex trafficking trade and recognized that Director Keenan has a group of agents directly engaged in the fight of the human sex trafficking trade. Commissioner McDonough recognized and thanked Captain Derick Durden who took 50 troopers to Louisiana for human sex trafficking training and is now engaging the GBI, and at the end of this year, 1100 sworn members of the DPS will join in the fight of human sex trafficking.

Commissioner McDonough stated during the past legislative session, two bills were passed. Concerning HB 325, Commissioner McDonough shared Lt. Karl Boerner who has passed away, one of the corner stones of his career was a presentation on 15 passenger vans and why people should wear seatbelts in the 15 passenger vans, which is the most dangerous vehicle on the road today. Commissioner McDonough noted the DPS was never able to get this included in the definition of passenger vehicles, were told it was not going to happen. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged that Representative Bill Hitchens stuck with it for the past four years and the bill was passed this year and now the children will have to wear seatbelts in a 15 passenger van.

Commissioner McDonough stated the other bill passed, SB100, will be signed by Governor Deal tonight at the law enforcement supper and noted the suspensions on licenses that are non-driving related, will be completely removed from the system except for child support. Commissioner McDonough noted for those in the corrections business, they know the challenge it is for someone coming out of prison that does not have a driver's license and a lot of times it has to do with stuff that has nothing to do with driving.

### **Donations**

Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Two Hundred U.S. Flags	\$ 4,700.00	Woodmen of the World, Chapter 1864
One Intoxilyzer 9000	\$ 8,322.00	Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Five Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$ 16,975.00	Lowndes County Board of Commissioners

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the Board members.

### **Georgia Bureau of Investigation**

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his report by stating it is great to have the Department of Public Safety as a partner with the GBI, as they combat child sex trafficking. Director Keenan noted that many of the cases the GBI has worked, many of the children that have been recovered are detected by troopers, by officers going about their normal duties in encountering a child and recognizing the behavior of a child sex trafficking victim so that the intervention can be made. Director Keenan stated the GBI also has a great partner in Attorney General Sam Olens who recently hired a special prosecutor to assist in the prosecution of cases made against child sex traffickers and thanked Attorney General Olens.

Director Keenan stated back in the fall, the attorney general came out to the GBI to meet with the GBI unit who works the child sex trafficking cases every day, the men and women who are out on the street investigating child sex trafficking. Director Keenan noted during the meeting, the agents were asked if there were tools they needed that would help them to better do their job in combating child sex trafficking and their response was that they needed a law changed, because in working the cases, they found out that if one is convicted of trafficking an adult person for sex, they did not have to register as a sex offender, a loop hole in the law. Director Keenan stated the sex offender registry was set up before there was a law against sex trafficking in Georgia. Director Keenan stated the Attorney General said he would take this and get the law corrected and a couple of times during the legislature, Director Keenan went to the AG and told him he was waiting for the legislation to go forward and not seeing it to close off the loop hole. The Attorney General told Director Keenan not to worry that he has it handled. Director Keenan stated when the legislature ended, that component was part of the safe harbor bill. Director Keenan thanked Attorney General Olens for moving the legislation forward and closing the loop hole so that now if one is convicted of sex trafficking, one has to register as a sex offender.

Director Keenan stated the GBI had a great budget year, picking up funding to increase the size of the morgue at the GBI headquarters as there is a lot of work done in the medical examiners' office. Director Keenan stated the facility they have is insufficient for the volume of work that is handled, the governor put it in his budget and the legislature appropriated over 6 million dollars to increase the size of the morgue so the GBI can accommodate 100 bodies, 50 in and 50 out. Director Keenan shared also included in the bond package was funding to have a design study to redo the crime laboratory in Savannah, as this laboratory is outdated and too small for the volume of work that is handled, needs more scientists in the Savannah lab and an additional medical examiner doctor at the location. Director Keenan stated this funding was put into the governor's budget and the legislature passed it. Director Keenan shared sometime in the near future; they hope to have a new crime lab in Savannah. In regards to the budget, Director Keenan stated the legislature gave the GBI funding to hire 8 agents dedicated to work elder abuse cases, crimes against the elderly and disabled adults in the state of Georgia is an iceberg crime. Director Keenan stated what the GBI is seeing is only a very small part of what is occurring of the crimes against the elderly and disabled adults. Director Keenan stated this is a start for the GBI to have dedicated agents to work this crime which is the first time in a decade, that the GBI has received new positions to work any type of cases and are off and running in the elder abuse crimes.

**Georgia Public Safety Training Center**

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center reported the GPSTC is in good standards right now, all the material being delivered at this time is excellent material and looking to expand a lot of programs, working with a lot of those present today to work on different things. Director Wigginton stated he has spoken with Director Blackwood of GOHS to implement a new program for ambulance and fire truck drivers as they receive no driving training before getting into their vehicles to run emergency equipment or emergency lights. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC Board report has been provided to the BPS members.

**Donation**

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

Cash Donation	\$ 1,000.00	GA Fire Investigators
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Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the donation, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully, and voted approved by the BPS members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary