

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

March 12, 2015

Department of Corrections Board Room, Atlanta, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Chief Danny Bowman  
Commissioner Homer Bryson  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Mr. Brian M. Rickman

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell D. 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  
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Buddy Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Clint Durrence, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. William Ruffin, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Assistant Director Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of investigation  
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Dwayne Garris, State Fire Marshall

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Sergeant Anthony Hughes gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked those present to introduce their selves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety called on Lt. Clint Durrence for a presentation to Lt. Colonel Russell Powell. Lt. Clint Durrence led the group in singing Happy Birthday to Lt. Colonel Powell.

Commissioner McDonough stated the previous month was a very active month for DPS personnel as during the first wave of winter weather, over 230 MCCD officers and troopers were involved with GEMA and in the second wave, over 174 MCCD officers and troopers were involved, helping with 15 strike teams, DOT brine truck escorts, DOT salt truck escorts, 100% CMV pull in's at all of the weigh stations, communications of the whole trucking industry, and CMV enforcement inside I-285. Commissioner McDonough noted the winter weather line was well north of Atlanta and for those in the north Georgia area, they live it; a great exercise and a lot of the preparations that have been made and with the leadership of Director Butterworth, if the line does drop down, the state will be well prepared.

Commissioner McDonough noted during this same time, 160 troopers were deployed to Savannah to support Chief Lumpkin and the Savannah Metro Police Department for the decision that came from the grand jury for a police shooting that occurred in September 2014. Commissioner McDonough thanked Director Vernon Keenan and the GBI for their ID teams and also for their support of GISAC, a team effort and if one is ever involved in one of those things, you can use all of the help one can get. Commissioner McDonough stated victory is in never deploying, and with the way Chief Lumpkin handled his business, this is the way it turned out the way it did and Chief Revenew can attest to Chief Lumpkin's 42 years of experience and the way he has relationships with the community and using his officers, it ended up the way it should be.

Commissioner McDonough stated next Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, there will be a dedication and open house of Post 52 – Hartwell, with Governor Deal being the keynote speaker.

Commissioner McDonough stated the air operations at the Camilla hanger is a success that keeps moving forward, stating for the month of February there were 14 life flights that occurred, essentially every other day, they are doing a life flight which was in a month that had poor weather. Commissioner McDonough noted even in a circumstance where the option of flying was curtailed because of weather, there were still 14 life flights. Chief Tully shared the life flight operations are headed in the right direction, working great and still are very appreciative. Commissioner McDonough added the life flight operations serves about 12 counties in the SW GA area and by putting the hanger in Camilla there will be a much greater response and is much quicker to the hospital of where they are located, working out exactly for what it has been designed to do.

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated anytime the legislature is in session, GBI as well as other state agencies spend a lot of their resources in answering questions from legislators concerning issues they are interested in and a lot relates to legislation that has been introduced. Director Keenan presented three documents that he provided to the legislators in response to questions the legislators had: Operations Bulletin 2015-02 DNA Analysis, Drug Evidence Submissions to the GBI Crime Laboratory, and Prescription Drug Related Deaths. Director Keenan stated on March 4, the GBI sent out Operations Bulletin 2015-02 concerning the DNA Analysis Update trying to debunk some of the myths that still exists in law enforcement, that the GBI Crime Lab does not analyze DNA on sexual assaults cases unless there is a suspect and this is not the case, anything that is submitted, any rape kit submitted to the crime lab is analyzed and the results go into the state and the national data base. Director Keenan stated they are sending the Operations Bulletin out again to alert law enforcement if they have rape kits in their evidence room, do not let them pile up, get them submitted to the crime lab, because otherwise there could be a scandal associated with having hundreds of rape kits stored in evidence rooms. Director Keenan acknowledged they are constantly talking to law enforcement reinforcing this issue. Director Keenan stated the document also outlines that the GBI needs the investigators in law enforcement when they get a DNA crime lab report to read it, as many times in the crime lab report, the GBI will be requesting known samples from the spouse or other people that are involved in the case so the crime lab can finish the DNA analysis. Director Keenan stated generally what happens is, they will get 30 days out for a trial or two weeks out for a trial and then suddenly realize that they needed known samples from the case to be able to finalize the DNA analysis, and then there is a scramble to send the evidence to the GBI and want results in two weeks or in some cases three days. Director Keenan declared the crime lab needs the DNA thirty days ahead of time, as it takes a while for the science to work.

Director Keenan presented a chart showing drug trends for FY2010-2014 for drug evidence submissions to the GBI Crime Laboratory and believes the most accurate depiction of data as it relates to drug trends in GA, comes from the submissions to the crime laboratory, because they are the actual drug evidence that is submitted to the lab and is then broken down by the different types of drugs. Director Keenan noted the crime lab does very little marijuana analysis, as it is handled at the local level by law enforcement. Director Keenan pointed out that it is very telling of the types of drugs that are being seized by law enforcement submitted to the lab for analysis.

Director Keenan stated the third document presented relates to prescription drug related deaths. Director Keenan noted a citizen who is using prescription drugs is 6 times more likely to die from using prescription drugs than they are using illegal drugs. Director Keenan shared the data relates to 152 counties where the GBI does the autopsies, does not include data from Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett or Cobb County who has their own Medical Examiner operations, and do not keep this data. Director Keenan stated he has encouraged the medical examiners to keep this data in order to have a statewide picture. Director Keenan stated one would find the number of deaths from OxyContin and hydrocodone interesting and anticipates in the future, deaths from heroin use are going to increase. Director Keenan noted there is a shift from persons who have been using OxyContin and hydrocodone now is going to using heroin because of the economics, noting a hydrocodone tablet will sell for \$60.00 on the street and can buy a hit of heroin for \$6.00, so the economics drive the drug use.

Director Keenan declared the crime lab keeps all of this data; the lab, the medical examiners' office are all data driven and can pull the data anytime someone is interested.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, told Sheriff Terrell he is glad to see that he is recovering and everyone at his sheriff's department recovering as well.

Director Wigginton shared the winter weather affected the GPSTC as two academies, one in Cherokee and one in Athens had to shut down for two days and are now making up the hours.

Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has three bond projects going on; one that is close to being completed, the active shooter schoolhouse, where the steel has been erected and the roof was started this week. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC broke ground about two weeks ago on the industrial fire training complex and the fire prevention lab was staked out this week. Director Wigginton noted the rainy winter has delayed the construction, but does expect all three bond projects to be completed by the end of August.

Director Wigginton stated the 2015 Trade Conference for all the fire service directors throughout the Southeastern region of the US in large city fire departments was at the GPSTC two weeks ago exchanging a lot of information, caught up on a lot of things that the fire services do throughout the southeast and throughout the country. Director Wigginton added this was a good conference.

Director Wigginton shared the GPSTC is developing a program for the campus police officer after being contacted by UGA and several university police chiefs about developing a program similar to the school resource officer for the University system due to a different clientele they deal with on a day to day basis.

### **DONATIONS**

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

Four X-26 Tasers	\$	895.00	Oconee Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One X-26P Taser	\$	1,086.40	Lincoln Co. Board of Comm.
Travel for two troopers to attend the VFW 116 <sup>th</sup> National Convention	\$	2,000.00	VFW Dept. of Georgia
Seven X-26 Tasers/holsters and Twenty-one X-26 Taser cartridges	\$	1,624.35	Covington Police Department
One 2015 KIA K900	\$	68,855.00	KIA Motors America

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Mark Renew, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donation:

Monetary Donation	\$	1,000.00	Atlanta Gas Light Company
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The motion to accept the donation was made by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Chief Mark Renew asked Director Wigginton if the GPSTC had any media outlets to take them up on the firearms simulator. Director Wigginton advised they had one media outlet interested but have had scheduling conflicts each time. Chief Renew stated he was disappointed more media outlets were not interested and shared he had approached the media outlets in the Savannah area and thought it was a great idea to show the judgement that goes into a incident.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to prepare and present a Resolution to former Board member Brian Owens. Chief Craig Tully seconded the motion and was voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members of the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 BPS meeting, a joint meeting with the DOC and other state agencies in Glennville.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated plans are being made to have the May meeting on Sapelo Island and the September meeting will be the school meeting in Effingham County.

Sheriff Joey Terrell shared one knows who their friends are when things hit the fan. Sheriff Terrell stated he appreciated Commissioner McDonough and Director Keenan for sending all of their people, to include two post commanders and all of their staff, the Commissioner, Major Waldrop, the GSP SWAT team; and then Director Keenan sent Deputy Director Andrews to the scene and three crime scene units. Sheriff Terrell stated it means a lot to turn around and see Commissioner McDonough standing there and appreciates more than anyone will know for all of the calls, cards, emails, texts and prayers following his shooting incident. Sheriff Terrell expressed he is truly blessed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary

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