

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
September 12, 2013  
North Hall High School-Gainesville, Georgia

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Chief Danny Bowman  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Chief Craig Tully

**OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Becky Dobras, 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 Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Steve Rushton, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Troop B Troopers  
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  
Ms. Nelly Miles, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Deneen Kilcrease, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Michael Parkerson, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Ms. Cindy Franklin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Albert Wright, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Region 8 and Region 10 Georgia Bureau of Investigation Agents  
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Department of Corrections  
Mr. Brad Johnson and Canine Unit Team, Department of Corrections  
Director Avery Niles, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Director Harris Blackwood, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Mrs. Lauren Push, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Mrs. Louise Rampy

Mrs. Maureen Bryant

Mrs. Rachal Kight

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the July Board minutes. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood spoke about 9/11 and the focus on public safety today. Vice-Chairman Wood stated most of those present at the meeting can remember where they were, what they saw and heard during the 9/11 time, and a major part of what was seen and heard in addition to the loss of life and the defamiation of property, saw public safety at one of the highlights of its moments in our life time. Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to pause for a moment, bow their heads and remember those who passed on that particular day.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared a quote from President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Kacy Cronan thanked everyone for coming to North Hall County High School and thanked Principal Joe Gheesling for hosting the BPS meeting. Mr. Cronan introduced Mr. Kevin Woody who gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the BPS members, the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta. Vice-Chairman Wood shared the DPS will be holding five Fallen Trooper Memorial Road Dedications during the meeting week with two on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, two on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> in Southwest Georgia, and on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, a dedication in Blue Ridge.

Principal Joe Gheesling, North Hall High School welcomed the Board of Public Safety and recognized North Hall High School alumni Kacy Cronan and Lauren Pugh.

Vice-Chairman Wood told the students the BPS is honored to be at North Hall High School and thanked Mr. Kacy K. Cronan for making the initial arrangements and appreciates the North Hall High School hosting the BPS.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced Commissioner Mark McDonough who gave an overview of the BPS to the students. Commissioner McDonough introduced Mr. Niles Avery of Hall County, who is the Director for the Department of Juvenile Justice. Commissioner McDonough went on to speak to the students about teen driving, drinking alcohol, talking and texting on their cell phones and not becoming a statistic.

Director Harris Blackwood, Governor's Office of Highway Safety spoke to the students about DUI and how it could affect them the rest of their lives if they are charged with a DUI.

Mr. Brian Rickman introduced GBI ASAC Brian Whidby and presented him with a plaque as a small token of appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the Mountain Judicial Circuit. Mr. Rickman spoke to the students sharing what it takes to be a criminal investigator and the sacrifices that are made when one is a criminal investigator.

Director Vernon Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation introduced Ms. Nelly Miles, Chemistry Section Manager who spoke to the students about synthetic drugs and the impact it has on young people.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center introduced Mr. Albert Wright, GA Fire Academy Division Instructor, who spoke to the students about what it is to be a firefighter and how to become a firefighter.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens asked the students to remember that actions have consequences, decisions matter and their life could be altered in a blink of the eye. Commissioner Owens introduced Mr. Brad Johnson, Chief Canine Handler who presented a series of canine demonstrations for the students.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety began by stating this year has been a year of excellence in training for the DPS. Commissioner McDonough advised by January 1, all sworn members of the DPS will be trained in the Below 100 Program, ARIDE Training which is Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, Traffic Incident Management, and the second round of Due Regard Training, which is incorporated into annual Pursuit Liability Training. Commissioner McDonough advised MCCC has had their first phase of TruCAM which is an advanced held hand device that not only allows the officers to get speeds on commercial vehicles but an actual video presentation and a following too closely presentation. McDonough noted instructors were sent to Texas to receive ALERT Training and all the troopers and MCCC officers, by January 1, will be trained in ALERT, which is the Department of Justice's standard in the country, pushed by the FBI for active shooter training. To Commissioner McDonough's knowledge, he noted no other state police or state patrol agency in the country will have accomplished this level of training.

Commissioner McDonough asked the troopers present at the BPS meeting to stand and be recognized, as the IACP announced the Georgia State Patrol is the number 1 state police, state patrol agency in the country.

Commissioner McDonough shared the Fallen Trooper Road Memorials will continue in Southwest Georgia on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> prior to the BPS meeting and then in Blue Ridge on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Danny Bryant asked Commissioner McDonough about the TruCAM and Commissioner McDonough responded the TruCAM device allows the officer, not only to get the speed of whatever vehicle, it is a hand held lidar device, a new technology that allows it to use the same laser to be able to determine the distance and the time between two vehicles. Commissioner McDonough stated in the past, it has been the opinion of the officer who writes the following too closely citation, now the officer does not have to give his opinion, can actually give the basis of the distance and the time behind the vehicle and have it on video. Commissioner McDonough noted when one looks at what causes commercial motor vehicle accidents, it is the vehicles in and around the truck and the majority of the accidents are caused by following too closely. Commissioner McDonough advised during phase one, 75 TruCAMs have been put out in the field and over the next year, year and a half, as money becomes available, every M CCD officer will have a TruCAM which is specific to commercial motor vehicle enforcement.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough if the DPS was still receiving some local interest in the Due Regard Training. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged DPS has Due Regard trainers in every troop and they are available for any agency that wants Due Regard Training.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation passed out a document in regards to the costs of implementing DNA analysis of serious felony arrestees plus selected felony offenses with high rates of linkage to serious crimes via CODIS, which was prepared in response to a request from the Georgia legislators. Director Keenan advised in June of this year, the US Supreme Court issued a decision in Maryland vs. King which said taking DNA from persons arrested for serious felonies was not a violation of the constitution, 28 states in the US already have laws which require DNA samples to be taken from persons arrested for certain offenses. Director Keenan advised the GBI does not have a position on this, but what the GBI has done at the request of the legislators is to prepare a document which outlines the costs of implementing taking DNA from arrestees. Director Keenan reminded the BPS members that DNA is probably the most important law enforcement tool in the past century and in Georgia over 3,500 cases have been solved with DNA, cold cases where there was not a perpetrator known and DNA solved the case. Director Keenan advised the state of Georgia currently takes DNA from persons that are convicted of felonies, whether they are incarcerated or placed on probation and would certainly span out the capability of DNA in the state of Georgia if taken from persons arrested for serious felonies. Director Keenan noted there is a cost associated with this as he told the legislators; it is one thing to pass a law, yet another thing to fund it and this document outlines the cost of doing this. Director Keenan stated the GBI analysis is that this would require us taking DNA from 35,000 persons that are arrested for serious felonies and the document shows an analysis of those felonies that result in most of the DNA solution of the cases. Director Keenan shared the document is for the BPS members, has been sent to the legislators, the Governor and provided to the Chiefs and Sheriffs associations.

Director Keenan stated in August of 2013, the GBI entered into a MOU with the GA Lottery Corporation, with the approval of the governor. In the MOU, Director Keenan noted the GBI will establish a Commercial Gambling Unit within the GBI and the Commercial Gambling Unit will pursue investigations and prosecutions of persons who are operating video poker machines illegally and doing

cash payouts. Director Keenan stressed the payouts are effecting the proceeds of the GA Lottery and the thing about the MOU with the Georgia Lottery Corporation, the MOU says the GA Lottery Commissioner will reimburse the GBI for the costs of the agents that are assigned to the unit; 4 agents are assigned to the unit. Director Keenan stated the unit became operational on August 16, 2013 and is beginning to work cases.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center advised the active shooter training was a huge success with 500 people in the auditorium, which included school resource officers, patrolmen, teachers and administrators from around the state. Director Bearden shared the FBI worked very closely with the GPSTC and the FBI was so impressed, they would like to have eight more trainings for the rest of the year and the GPSTC is trying to make sure everything is in place to make sure the active shooter trainings take place.

Director Bearden stated there would be a train the trainer class on ALERT training in October and one in November. Since 2011, Director Bearden advised there had been 21 active shooter situations across the nation with 116 fatalities and 156 wounded and it does not take long for people to be hurt in these situations and the GPSTC needs to make sure the officers around the state are ready for this type of incident, whether it be at a school building, office complex or a movie theater. Director Bearden stressed the GPSTC is doing everything they can do to make sure law enforcement is prepared.

Director Bearden stated there has been a backlog for Supervision Training and beginning this week there are two classes going on at one time, using Tom Davis on contract, retired from the GBI, for this training. Director Bearden stated the GPSTC is trying to make sure they have 5-7 classes per year at the GPSTC and at every regional academy, level 1, level 11, and level 111 training, which should help with the backlog.

Director Bearden presented a handout for FY-15 Capital Projects at the GPSTC. Director Bearden stated for the past two years he has been working on getting the basic infrastructure back to where it should be at the GPSTC. Director Bearden noted this was spread out over 5 years, but stated he was very proud of the Operations Division for the work they did as most of the infrastructure projects have just about been taken care of in two years. With a little left to do, Director Bearden stressed that he added things like shoot houses, pit road and other training props for the students. Director Bearden shared the FY-15 Capital Projects for the GPSTC includes an active shooting simulator classroom building, structural collapse complex, Georgia Fire Academy aircraft rescue firefighting (ARFF) props, trench/confined space, and an industrial fire training field. Director Bearden acknowledges that over the years the Fire Academy has been the red headed stepchild and is looking to change this. Director Bearden noted for the FY-15 Capital Projects, there has been four plane crashes this past year, usually small plane crashes with fatalities and injuries at locations such as Alma, Unadilla, Thomaston and just north of Warner Robbins, not downtown Atlanta who is prepared to handle these situations. In regards to confined space rescues and structural collapses, Director Bearden noted the tornados over the last few years and shared that in August of 2013, there was a trench collapse in Columbus that took two lives and a carpet plant in Dalton collapsed in 2011 and in 2010 there was a trench rescue of a construction worker in Valdosta, in 2012 a small child was rescued from a storm drain in East Point

and in April 2011, due to tornados in Middle Georgia and Northwest Georgia, there were 75-100 buildings that had to be searched as they were collapsed. Director Bearden stressed the GPSTC has got to get the training for the firefighters and first responders that they need. Director Bearden stated the bond package he is presenting to the BPS members is just under 3 million dollars, not sure if GPSTC will get all this year, but this is the route that GPSTC is taking and wanted the BPS members to see what is going on and see what the focus is on at the GPSTC. Director Bearden stated it was the GPSTC's job to make sure people are trained to the best of their ability and by moving forward in this direction, GPSTC can make sure this occurs.

Director Bearden stated most of the Intox-9000 machines are in and the training will start in the very near future.

**DONATIONS**

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

(8) LWRC M6-G Semi-Auto 5/56mm Riles	\$ 15,481.76	Morgan Co. Sheriff's Dept.
(1) X26 Taser	\$ 932.81	Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Restoration of DPS Patrol Car (1991 Ford Mustang)	\$ 5,000.00	Candy Apple Custom Collision Center

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation requested approval of the following donations:

(4) 2013 Chevrolet Tahoes	\$ 103,764.00	Brunswick Judicial Circuit/DA Johnson
(4) 2014 Chevrolet Tahoes	\$ 127,058.00	Brunswick Judicial Circuit/DA Johnson
(8) Motorola XTL 5000 VHF Mobile Radios	\$ 33,480.80	Brunswick Judicial Circuit/DA Johnson
(8) Truck Vault Vehicle Equipment Storage Lockers	\$ 13,888.02	Brunswick Judicial Circuit/DA Johnson
(8) Emergency Vehicle Equipment Packages	\$ 35,806.60	Brunswick Judicial Circuit/DA Johnson

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

Mr. Dan Kirk brought before the BPS a MOU between the Dept. of Corrections, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, the GBI and Saadian Technology. Mr. Kirk noted this was not a donation as it does not have any money value, but at the same time Saadian Technology will be providing a service for a pilot project. Mr. Kirk stated the pilot project involves a system called PINS which is an information sharing technology. Mr. Kirk shared the project will take information from the GA Department of Corrections, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office; all the inmate information, everything from who they are, what they are, what they look like, where they are housed, who they are housed with and takes the information and makes it available to law enforcement agencies who can access the information from NLETS. Mr. Kirk gave an example as to what the system will do by sharing when Inmate A in Fulton County is getting out, it will automatically send the information to the local law enforcement agencies so they will know this person is getting out and the agencies can then query to see who he is, who he was housed with and if they have any future crime problems; it also gives the agencies investigative leads where they can go in and see if they are related to gangs, who they stayed with, like an information sharing system. Mr. Kirk advised Saadian has agreed to do the pilot program for three months which has been in use in the UK for about 10 years and has been very successful. Mr. Kirk asked the BPS members for their approval of the MOU with Saadian Technology.

Mr. Brian Rickman made a motion to approve the MOU with Saadian Technology for a three month pilot program, which was seconded by Mr. Kacy K. Cronan and approved by the BPS members. DOC Commissioner Brian Owens abstained from the vote due to the Department of Corrections being part of the pilot project.

Ms. Cindy Franklin, Fiscal Officer, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donations:

13 Light Bars with switch boxes, siren boxes and speakers	\$	10,000.00	Cherokee County Sheriff's Dept.
Check-Arson program	\$	1,000.00	Atlanta Gas Light
Check-Arson program	\$	1,000.00	GA Fire Investigators Association

The motion to accept the GPSTC donations was made by Chief Mark Revenew, which was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

## **FISCAL REPORTS**

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety advised DPS closed out the fiscal year with 0.03 percent remaining, returning \$44,955.00 back to the state out of an operating budget of \$153,872,402.00. Mr. Adams noted with the challenging end to the fiscal year, DPS used a lot of other

funds and asset forfeiture funds at the end of the year to make the books balance, but managed to get it done. Mr. Adams announced Mr. Robert Orange, former assistant comptroller has moved on to the Dept. of Agriculture and DPS was very fortunate to get Ms. Amy Stancil of DDS, who is a CPA and has 24 years of state government experience.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, advised GBI closed out the fiscal year with 0.10% of budget remaining, returning \$70, 223.00 back to the state. Mr. Kirk noted 2.57% of federal funds remained and will be expended by the end of the federal funds fiscal year.

Ms. Cindy Franklin, Fiscal Officer, Georgia Public Safety Training Center advised the GPSTC closed out the fiscal year with 0% of budget remaining, returning \$747.62 back to the state. Ms. Franklin advised federal funds, \$979,135.52 will continue on in to FY14, carry over funds.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Concerning the Georgia Fire Academy Advisory Council, Director Bearden stated the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs recommended Mr. Robert Singletary, current President of the GA Association of Fire Chiefs to serve on the Georgia Fire Academy Advisory Council and asked the BPS for their consideration in this recommendation.

Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., made the motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Robert Singletary to serve on the Georgia Fire Academy Advisory Council. This motion was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and voted approval by the BPS members.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to prepare and present a Resolution to Mr. Dan Bray, DOC employee and bag pipe player. This motion was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. C. Murray Kight made a motion to adjourn the Board of Public Safety meeting and go into the Georgia Crime Information Center Council, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and approved by the Board members.

### **GEORGIA CRIME INFORMATION CENTER COUNCIL**

GBI Assistant Director Dan Kirk presented the FY2013 CJIS Security Violations Report for the Georgia Crime Information Center which involves unauthorized access and dissemination of criminal justice information. Mr. Kirk noted there were 20 violations reported during FY2013 and presented the request for approval of actions taken to resolve security policy violations for FY2013 to the BPS members for their approval.

Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to accept the GCIC's recommendation; which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the Board members.



Mr. C. Murray Kight made a motion to go back into the Board of Public Safety meeting, which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice Chairman Wood thanked Principal Joe Gheesling, North Hall High School, Mr. Kacy Cronan and retired Sheriff Cronic for hosting the BPS last night and today.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary