

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

December 8, 2016

Department of Public Safety

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Chief Danny Bowman
Commissioner Greg Dozier
Mr. Lester Rampy
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Danny Bryant
Mr. Kacy Cronan
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Chief Mark Revenew
Mr. Peter J. Skandalakis

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 Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Major William Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Mark Hambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Les Wilburn, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain James Byrd, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Sergeant Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Chief Dispatcher Gary Sosebee, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Zachary Howard, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Crystal Nevin, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cindy Franklin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Jonathan Fuss, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. David Wall, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mr. Chadd Wilson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Mike Byrd, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Donald Kirkland, Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. Joe Talaber, Office of Planning and Budget
Mrs. Olivia Duke, Office of Planning and Budget
Mrs. Cindy Tully

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the December 8th, 2016, 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 welcomed newest member, Commissioner Greg Dozier and thanked him for his service to the state and on the Board. Commissioner Dozier responded he is looking forward to serving on the BPS.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to stand and introduce their self.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety highlighted HQ Chief Dispatcher Gary Sosebee who is an old friend of his. Commissioner McDonough shared Mr. Sosebee was the Senior Radio Operator in Blue Ridge and their children grew up together and he has two of the finest boys that one would ever meet. Commissioner McDonough noted as he is the father of two girls, they are boys that a father would want their girls to marry, and added both of the sons are in the US Army, and are graduates of the University of GA. Commissioner McDonough went on to tell a Gary Sosebee story when he was a trooper at Blue Ridge.

Commissioner McDonough shared SFC Tony Henry of Executive Security who has been there for 15 years and has served with three different governors, the nicest down to earth person that one would meet, is in ICU in a Tampa FL hospital following a low speed motorcycle accident this past weekend. Commissioner McDonough stated the group was on an Iron-Butt Motorcycle Ride that took them to Tampa, they were pulling into a gas station, and SFC Henry had to lay his motorcycle down and then ended up flipping over and then came down on the right side of his head and has a very serious head injury. Commissioner McDonough stated SFC Henry has been in ICU after surgery removing a small section of his skull in order to not allow the skull to gain pressure, heavily sedated, on a breathing apparatus, a feeding tube but over the past couple of days has been stable and his condition is such that time will tell. Commissioner McDonough stated SFC Henry has been responding to stimulus, his eyes have been responding to light, but it is wait and see. Commissioner McDonough added SFC Henry is a beloved member of DPS and his wife will be displaced for a period of time from her home with related expenses, and an account has been set up at the Justice Federal Credit Union in SFC Henry's name to specifically raise money to support his wife while she is displaced away from her home. Commissioner McDonough noted this will not be a couple of days thing, they will be lucky to have SFC Henry back in Georgia prior to the first of the year, as he has to get to a point where he is

stable enough to travel and then they have to arrange where he will be sent to for future treatment. Commissioner McDonough noted in the time of giving, he asked if their heart is so moved, would they consider a donation to SFC Henry and Trudy to help them through their time.

Commissioner McDonough presented two changes to the DPS Organizational Chart for approval. Under the Office of Professional Standards, Commissioner McDonough advised he is requesting to move Permits to OPS from MCCC. Commissioner McDonough stated the Permits section consist of a statutory requirement to approve the use of red lights in the state, as well as variances to window tint.

Under the Headquarters Adjutant's Office Organizational Chart, Commissioner McDonough requested to rename the IT Director position to Chief Information Officer. Commissioner McDonough noted as the department has grown, going from basic things to a more complex IT environment, this individual is responsible for cyber security, network security, all of the computers, the CAD system, MDTs, the department's chief polygraphist and also has a role in the radio network throughout the state. Commissioner McDonough added the Chief Information Officer title encompasses more of what his responsibilities are. Commissioner McDonough commented that he does not know anybody in this state whose IT director who also happens to be the foremost expert and head of the polygraph unit as well.

Mr. Lester Rampy made the motion to approve the DPS Organizational Chart changes, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough invited everyone to the annual DPS holiday luncheon and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated Director Kennan is on the way to the Americus, GA area to follow-up after the shooting of an Americus PD officer and a Georgia Southwestern University PD officer. Mr. Kirk advised the two officers were responding to a disturbance call at off-campus housing, one officer was killed and the other is fighting for his life. Mr. Kirk, asked everyone to please keep these families in their prayers, and added the GSP has been a tremendous help, along with the SWAT unit.

Mr. Kirk advised legislation O.C.G.A 35-1-2, which was signed by the governor last year, dealing with sexual assault kits, and how law enforcement and health care systems are supposed to turn sexual assault kits over to the GBI in a certain time frame and the annual report produced by the GBI regarding sexual assaults. Mr. Kirk advised the first report has been issued and according to the law the report goes to the governor's office, the speaker of the house, the Lt. governor, certain members of the judiciary committee members, both in the house and senate, the committee on health and human services, the senate health and human services committee and will be published on the GBI website.

Mr. Kirk advised the report reflects the GBI received approximately 550 new DNA cases per month and of those 150-170 are sexual assault kits, and as of 4/26/16, the GBI has received 3000 sexual assault kits, have completed 1,572 and reports have been issued on half of those cases. Mr. Kirk

advised there are around 4,000 sexual assaults kits to be tested and around 4,000 kits that are still backlogged to be tested. In addition to this, Mr. Kirk advised there are a little over 5,000 cases, some are sexual assaults kits, and some DNA evidence in the GBI vault, pre 1999, evidence that has been kept. Mr. Kirk stated these are cases that came in that were not suitable for the type of DNA of that time or the department did not request certain services or did not provide certain standards and are being kept in the vault. Mr. Kirk advised they have cataloged all the cases in the vault and will go through the cases and try to contact the agency the case belongs to and find out if there is a reason for forensic work to be done on the case. Mr. Kirk stated hopefully, within the next two years, the GBI will have eliminated the pre 1999 cases and will go back to the agency from which they it came. Mr. Kirk reiterated these were pre 1999 cases and does not expect to have anything done with them at all.

Mr. Kirk shared that he hopes to present a snapshot view of the crime lab at the next BPS meeting. Over the last three years, submissions have been going up in some sections as much as 30-40% and continues to climb and has not slowed down. Mr. Kirk stated he cannot explain what the cause of this is, does not know if the departments are getting out of their budget cuts and have more officers on the road, or more crimes are being committed in the state, probably a combination of all of these things. Mr. Kirk added he has asked the crime lab director to prepare him a series of slides that he can present to the BPS so they can get an idea of where the crime lab is. Mr. Kirk noted as submissions go up, backlogs go up, and turnaround time goes out the door. Mr. Kirk stated they are trying to figure out what is happening and what is going on and try to see what resources will be needed in the future.

Mr. Kirk wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels.

Director Chris Wigginton spoke about the GPSTC regional academies and the negativity surrounding law enforcement, and shared some of the basic classes have been more involved with the communities and have allowed the classes to go out and participate in the community. Director Wigginton shared at the Athens academy, they are participating in the Toys for Tots Relay, a project with the local Humane Society and another is participating in a food drive for the local homeless shelter. Director Wigginton stated this allows the cadets who are in training to be involved in the local community and diffuse some of the negativity and show that law enforcement is concerned and wants to be part of the community.

Director Wigginton reminded everyone of the Governor's Public Safety Awards, Tuesday, December 13th, at 2:30 pm.

Director Wigginton advised the bid on the driving track has closed, but the rain has held up starting on the track. Director Wigginton stated there are two new courses at the GPSTC, an ATV off-road course and a bike patrol course with great success in attendance.

Director Wigginton stated in the future, he wants the GPSTC staff to be more involved with the Board and should expect to see more of the staff at the BPS meetings.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Wigginton about the status of the Governor's initiative committee that is working with GPSTC to review training and training standards. Director Wigginton responded the committee will meet after the first of the year.

Director Wigginton wished everyone Merry Christmas.

DONATIONS

Major Jason Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donation:

One Chev Tahoe Truck Vault	\$	1,996.59	City of Trenton
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman, and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members to file their Affidavit of Public Officer.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked the DPS Command Staff for hosting the BPS and for the lunch.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded everyone to continue to pray for those that have lost loved ones, for those that serve as law enforcement in the state of Georgia and also remember those going through medical issues in the near future.

Mr. Charles Sikes made a motion to prepare and present former Board member Director Homer Bryson with a Resolution. This was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated Chief Danny Bowman will be at the January meeting and anticipates this will be his last meeting. Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Chief Bowman for his service, his friendship, his leadership and looks forward to seeing him in January.

Mr. Lester Rampy asked about the new hash marks on the DPS uniforms and Commissioner McDonough noted Major Waldrop is in tune with GSP history and spends a lot of time researching certain things and in his career has taken the brunt for the orange letters back on the patrol cars and the traditional paint scheme. Commissioner McDonough noted because of Major Waldrop's efforts from the past, it is one of the big reasons GSP went back to the traditional paint scheme and orange letters and stated GSP won the patrol car for the year in the country. Commissioner McDonough advised the GSP car finished 12th last year and in 2017, the GSP car is number one in the country for 2017, and will start the calendar. Commissioner McDonough stated Major Waldrop worked with Gordy and looking back at the old photos, the years of service were denoted by stars and Major Waldrop had examples made up and each star will represent the same recognition as faithful service awards for state employees, 5 years of service in conjunction with the faithful service award. Commissioner McDonough added instead of the old military service hash marks that were for every four years of

service, the star will be for five years. Commissioner McDonough noted when looking back at GSP's history, years of service was noted by stars and when looking at other agencies in the southeast, they also use stars. Commissioner McDonough commented as in the same fashion as going back to the orange lettering and the blue and gray paint scheme, the troopers will be back in their traditional winter leather coats and staying true to GSP history.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chief Mark Revenew
Secretary