

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

February 14, 2019

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Decatur, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bruce Carlisle
Mr. George Hartwig
Director Sam Heaton
Sheriff Dane Kirby-via conference call
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Steve D. Cronic
Mr. Mark Revenew

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Jason Johnson, 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 Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Marc Godby, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Lieutenant Shawn Prather, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Zachary Howard, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Kaycee Larson, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Vic Reynolds, Incoming Director Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Interim Director D. Scott Dutton, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
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
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Hal Braswell, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Chadd Wilson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Marty Smith, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

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Mr. Timothy Melton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Scott Mauer, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Community Supervision
Retired GBI Director Vernon Keenan
Mrs. Joan Keenan
Chief Wiley Gammon, Atlanta Metro State College PD
Mr. Jimmy Cotty, Executive Director, Georgia Ready Mix Concrete Association
Mr. Joe Drolet, Retired BPS attorney
Mr. Darryl Wilson

Other GBI personnel: Ms. Natalie Ammons, Mrs. Nelly Miles, Mrs. Connie Buck, Mrs. Terri Fisher, Ms. Hana Crawford, Ms. Monica Mahone, Ms. Pam Ervin, Ms. Annabel Sawyer, Dr. Jonathan Eisenstat, Ms. Mabelle Jones, Ms. Joy Moore, Ms. Shondrena Hudson Haley, Ms. Ginny Davis, Ms. Lyana Crawford and Mr. Fred Mayes

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the February 14, 2019, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GBI Interim Director Scott Dutton welcomed the group to the GBI. Mr. Dutton thanked Ms. Mabelle Jones and Ms. Joy Moore for putting everything together for the BPS meeting.

Mr. Dutton introduced incoming GBI Director Vic Reynolds. Mr. Dutton noted the GBI has been fortunate to have leadership in Director Keenan and knows as the GBI moves forward into the future, the GBI will have great leadership as the GBI continues forward. Mr. Dutton shared Director Reynolds brings great qualities, standards, and character to the agency which are the core fundamentals of the GBI employees. Mr. Dutton stated the GBI is looking forward to getting things moving and looking forward to Director Reynolds' vision and his direction.

Mr. Reynolds stated he is so honored and so humbled to assume the leadership of the GBI. Mr. Reynolds promised he would do the very best job he can and has three principals that he lives by; one, he will always tell the truth every time he is asked, second, is if a decision is placed in front of him, he will make the decision, may be hard, may be difficult, may try to get as much information as he can, but will not kick the decision down the road and third thing he will do, if he messes up, he will fess up and gave his promise and solemn word. Mr. Reynolds added he is so honored and humbled to do this job and is looking forward to it, as the GBI is a great organization and everyone at GBI has been so gracious to him and he is ready to hit the ground running.

Former Board attorney Joe Drolet stated he came today to honor retiring GBI Director Vernon Keenan. Mr. Drolet stated he has known incoming GBI Director Reynolds for many years and he has incredible integrity, a straight arrow solid person and will not find a better person to run the GBI and will be a credit to the GBI.

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

Mr. Charles Sikes presented retired GBI Director Vernon Keenan with a Resolution. Mrs. Joan Keenan was presented with a bouquet of roses.

Director Keenan stated if anyone has been around as long as he has, one will receive a lengthy Resolution like the one presented to him. Director Keenan shared he went to college to be a history teacher and got sidetracked and started his law enforcement with the DeKalb County Police Department in 1972. Director Keenan stated he was fortunate to have been with the GBI and honored to work with the women and men at the GBI and always had great staff that made him look good. Director Keenan thanked the BPS, his friends in law enforcement and his great command staff.

Chief Craig Tully presented Ms. Tina Piper, Board attorney and Ms. Cheryl Buie, Board Liaison with Valentine bouquets.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the January 10, 2019 and February 4, 2019 minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Michael Nail, and voted approved by the BPS members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety led the group in celebrating Vice-Chairman Wood's birthday with the group singing Happy Birthday to Vice-Chairman Wood.

Commissioner McDonough stated with the Super Bowl over with, he shared all of the comments that have been received, from every officer from the DCS, every GBI agent, every MCCD officer, every local officer, all the support that was given to APD, all the way across the board, it is resounding of the good job that everyone did. Commissioner McDonough added for all the men and women that worked the hard road and the pavement every day, while assisting APD, made it a successful event. Commissioner McDonough noted there was no crisis, no black eye on the state, and everyone got a limousine to their event.

In regards to the MCCD, Commissioner McDonough bragged on them and shared in the Guardian Magazine, which is a publication of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance shows a road map as to what the MCCD function is at DPS. Commissioner McDonough stated the article is very well written, very direct and specific article that was done telling one what MCCD does on a daily basis and goes into priorities and the use of technology. Commissioner McDonough stated their initial results that have been turned into the federal government, specific to commercial motor vehicles in a state that is experiencing expedient growth. With the Savannah port being deepening, Commissioner McDonough stated an estimate of commercial motor vehicles coming out of the port from 48,000 to 78,000 a day and a population increase with the statistics that 1,740 new residents a week are moving into metro Atlanta. Commissioner McDonough stated on an average over the past couple of years, 3,000 new commercial motor vehicle trucking companies have been established every year and now there are over 66,000 commercial motor vehicle trucking companies that their state of origin is in Georgia and with that last year, the fatal crashes look like they are down 11.8% and the fatalities are down 15.6%. Commissioner McDonough stated every time one sees a MCCD officer on the side of

the road doing inspections or doing their details, their hard work appears to be paying off and they are doing a great job.

Commissioner McDonough stated legislation specific to the BPS has been approved by the governor's staff and will be moving forward with the legislature picking a sponsor today and moving forward. Commissioner McDonough stated this legislation puts the Board in the lists of all the Boards and Councils in the state that are allowed to collect per diem for travel expenses. Commissioner McDonough stated Board members that work for local and state governments and drive a county or state vehicle to the Board meetings will not be allowed to claim the mileage. Commissioner McDonough added there will be training and will review submissions for reimbursement and keep everyone ethically straight.

Commissioner McDonough presented a proposed DPS Organizational Chart. Commissioner McDonough stated he would like to institute within the DPS structure a Lieutenant Colonel over External Operations, covering all of those things that are outside the norm that over the years have come to DPS. Commissioner McDonough added this would cover dignitary protection, mansion security, honor guard, capitol police and agency support detachments from the GOHS to US Dept. of Homeland Security and would fall under this purview. Commissioner McDonough stated going back to the past, he would like to reestablish the Commanding Officer with two Adjutants, one over the North Division and one over the South Division. Commissioner McDonough stated that particular job has been a one man show and for he that has does that one man job, it is a long way from Dalton to Savannah. Commissioner McDonough stated GSP needs to have that span of control in a more appropriate fashion.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to approve the DPS Organizational Chart. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS.

Interim Director Scott Dutton, Georgia Bureau of Investigation shared the hiring process and positions to the Board of Public Safety, with the GBI hosting an interview weekend in March for special agents. Mr. Dutton stated the GBI keeps a running list of eligible candidates year to year for special agent's positions. Mr. Dutton added the list typically last a year and have about exhausted this particular list due to being able to hire agents over the past couple of years and are now moving into this past year, there were just under 500 applicants who actually took the test. Mr. Dutton stated there are 232 candidates that will be interviewed over this particular weekend and looking down the road where positions will be backfilled, there are four agents in the hopper, already certified, in their offices getting their field training and are looking to pick up another five for replacements due to retirements. Mr. Dutton stated a basic agent academy is planned for September 2019 and through the legislature, GBI is in position to hire five agents for the Cyber Center which will put the Cyber Center at a full compliment. Mr. Dutton stated the GBI's intentions is to have fourteen agents for the academy and as a result of the March weekend of doing the massive interviews, by July 1st, the GBI will be in position to hire more agents. Mr. Dutton added the special agent school is 16 weeks, which includes the CIT training and the Active Shooter training.

Concerning legislation, Mr. Dutton stated there are several issues that are not GBI sponsored, but there are a few out there that GBI has been pulled into that has some particular impact on public safety. Mr.

Dutton stated one bill concerns a school safety plan with Senator Albers introducing SB15 and is going through some changes with the GBI and GEMA/Homeland Security specifically mentioned. Mr. Dutton added there is more work to be done on the bill and lot of this has to do with receiving threats, school threats, how does the information flow external to the schools and also dealing with school threats within, that School Resource Officers and local jurisdictions are dealing with to make sure there is a complete picture for that.

Mr. Dutton stated another issue that has come up is industrial hemp, a bill has been dropped for that and looking at that from the standpoint of the impact for public safety. Mr. Dutton stated one of the issues that came from this was a concern for the marijuana identification program that many of the sheriffs and the police departments in doing visual identification of marijuana, and this could in some way hamper their ability to do this. Mr. Dutton stated he thinks they have come up with a remedy for this as they carry the legislation through and all intentions are is they plan to do that. Mr. Dutton stated industrial hemp has less than 3% THC level and if they legalize the hemp to grow, they are asking growers, distributors and transporters of industrial hemp to have a certified license and carry a card to do this. Mr. Dutton added if an individual is caught with green leafy material and goes through the process, it is marijuana no matter what, and added this will be an easy fix for this if they continue down that road.

Mr. Dutton advised the house legislature has put \$75,000.00 pre-planning money into the budget for the Calhoun office and lab.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stated the GPSTC serviced over 21,000 students and offered 300 different courses last month. Director Wigginton stated when the GPSTC first opened in 1986-1987, the GPSTC serviced about 8,000 students annually. Director Wigginton stated he thinks the GPSTC is meeting the demand.

Director Wigginton recognized 4 of the 6 Regional Academy Managers, Mr. Tim Melton, Mr. Chadd Wilson, Mr. Hal Braswell and Mr. Marty Smith who are responsible for 95% of the peace officers certified in the state to be a deputy sheriff, a police officer and those for basic certification. Director Wigginton stated as he drives the regional academy managers to further expectations and for the GPSTC, they are now all required to offer active shooter training in their regional academies and to reach out to their local communities and partner with agencies that have special needs or requests. Director Wigginton shared that Mr. Wilson just taught a use of force class for the Prosecuting Attorneys Council and has for the last four years. Director Wigginton thanked the regional academy managers for their dedication to service the men and women that serve the citizens of the state of Georgia.

Director Wigginton reminded the group of his mention at the last meeting of the "Start the Conversation" video, suicide awareness video for law enforcement and public safety and noted this is one subject that people do not want to talk about in public safety. Director Wigginton shared after the BPS meeting last month, he received a phone call the next day from someone on the PEER Support Team, stating they had received a call that day from an individual that was contemplating suicide that had watched the video and called for help. Director Wigginton stated one life is worth every bit of making the video. Director Wigginton stated he had received calls from sheriffs and police chiefs

throughout the nation asking if they can use the video and received a call this week from the president of the IACP wanting the GPSTC to do a presentation at the national conference in Chicago, IL.

Mentioning the Below 100, Director Wigginton stated his goal is to “Start the Conversation” as a national campaign and to get the suicide number below 100 deaths, as for the last five years the suicide numbers were above the line of duty deaths.

Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC staff has taken on the initiative to start doing pod casts because of the younger generation as the GPSTC gets a lot of requests for information or video on one topic and they need that 5-10 minute video for information to do a search and seizure and to look at gang affiliations and see if that information is on there, a traffic stop and how to process certain things, and seizures. Director Wigginton stated the staff is working on pod casts and are already working on several topics they are looking at. Director Wigginton noted an officer on the road, can pull up the pod cast and watch the short video and make an informed decision on the arrest or pass it on.

Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC offers the training records transcripts for free on line to those that have attended training at GPSTC. Director Wigginton stated a lot of colleges and universities are accepting the GPSTC classes as transferrable material and by doing that they have to have a certified transcript from GPSTC. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC would like to charge a \$10.00 fee for an official certified transcript.

Mr. George Hartwig made the motion to allow the GPSTC to charge a \$10.00 fee for an official certified transcript of training records. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

DONATIONS

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

Two Mannequins to display SWAT and DIVE Team Uniforms and Equipment	\$	200.00	Fechheimer Brothers Co.
Three Stalker Dual SL Radars and One Stalker II DSR Radar Unit	\$	8,000.00	Hall County Sheriff's Dept.
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	5,961.00	City of Dublin
Two Stalker Dual SL Radars	\$	4,204.00	GA GOHS

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

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

Three 9 ft. Stick Training Kits with Storage Bags	\$	780.00	Stop Stick, Ltd.
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Three Stinger 90035 Training Units 15.5 ft. w/case	\$	729.00	Federal Signal
Fifteen Copies of “Print Reading for Architecture and Construction Technology”	\$	1,728.75	GA Fire Inspectors Association

The motion to accept these donations was made by Commissioner Michael Nail, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zachary Howard, Legal Services, Department of Public Safety asked the BPS to approved the issuance of an Administrative Order extending the temporary hours of service variance adopted by the Georgia Department of Public Safety through section 395.341 of Chapter 1 the Georgia Department of Public Safety’s Transportation Rulebook for a period expiring on December 31, 2019.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion that the temporary hours of service variance adopted by the Georgia Department of Public Safety through section 395.341 of Chapter 1 the Georgia Department of Public Safety’s Transportation Rulebook be extended for a period beginning February 14, 2019 and expiring on December 31, 2019. This was seconded by Mr. Sam Heaton and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Zachary Howard presented a Resolution asking the BPS to authorize the Georgia Department of Public Safety to seek and accept the transfer of custody and control of real property known as “Tract J” which is located on United Avenue SE, Atlanta, Georgia, and currently in the custody and control of the Georgia Department of Defense.

Mr. Lester Rampy made the motion authorizing the Commissioner of Public Safety to seek an Executive Order for transfer of the custody and control of all that improved and unimproved property known as Tract J, comprising Buildings 4, 21, 22 and adjoining parking lots, located in the 900 block of United Avenue SE, in the City of Atlanta, Georgia, from the Georgia Department of Defense to the Georgia Department of Public Safety. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented 12 Georgia Line of Duty Deaths 2018 and Historical names for approval that were submitted by the Georgia Public Safety Memorial Committee to be added to the 2019 Memorial Wall. The names are: Charles Lee Maddox, Anthony Christie, Frank McClelland, Antwan DeArvis Toney, Edgar Isidro Flores, Michael Wayne Smith, Stacey Boulware, Adam Taylor, Kathy Cox, William Greer, William Orr and William Dorsey.

Mr. Sam Heaton made the motion to approve the names for the Georgia Public Safety Memorial, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members of the Public Safety Awards Banquet on March 9th, and the March BPS meeting will be held in Atlanta in conjunction with trooper school graduation where Mr. Abernathy's Resolution will be presented.

Mr. Sam Heaton congratulated incoming GBI Director Vic Reynolds. Mr. Heaton remarked the gang initiative that Mr. Reynolds did in Cobb County has been tremendous. Mr. Heaton added Mr. Reynolds is a team builder, worked with all of the local law enforcement chiefs and it shows on some of the reports he has given to us and it shows the impact he has had in Cobb County. Mr. Heaton stated all of Cobb County will miss him and are here to help him.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Mark Revenew
Secretary