

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 9, 2019

165<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard  
Savannah, Georgia

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chief Bruce Carlisle  
Mr. Steve D. Cronic  
Mr. George Hartwig  
Sheriff Dane Kirby-via phone  
Commissioner Michael Nail-via phone  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Mr. Charles D. Sikes  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward

**OTHERS:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office-via phone  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Colonel Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Chad Riner, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain W. W. Hitchens, III, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Al Whitworth, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Marc Godby, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Blair Hanton, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Shawn Prather, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Maurice Raines, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Kris Bowen, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Brent Moore, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
SFC Joseph Teet, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Sgt. Kyle Williams, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Sgt. James Gerald, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Sgt. Minis Hillis, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
MCO2 Matthew Kennedy, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Debbie Shaw, Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Hal Braswell, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Director Allen Poole, Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
Mr. Jimmy Sumner, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
Miss Ashlie Moncrief  
Mrs. Kathy Cronic

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 9th, 2019 Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Chaplain Daniel Adkins gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked the staff of the 165<sup>th</sup> Air Wing, Georgia Air National Guard for hosting the BPS meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to stand and introduce themselves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the April 18<sup>th</sup> minutes. Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the BPS members.

Chief Mark Revenew shared a video about the 200 Club who is there to help provide for the surviving spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics who lose their lives in the line of duty. This includes all federal, state, county and local officers, firefighters and paramedics stationed in and working out of 20 counties within the "Coastal Empire".

Chief Revenew stated the 200 Club does a lot of fund raising and on May 28<sup>th</sup>, the 200 Club will have the Savannah Mile where all the public safety officers come out and run in uniform and welcomed everyone to join him at the Savannah Mile.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety welcomed Director Allen Poole of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Director Poole introduced himself to the Board members and stated he appreciates Governor Kemp giving him an opportunity to take on such a responsibility to help find ways to curtail the crashes, injuries and fatalities on the Georgia highways. Director Poole gave all the kudos to his friends and Commissioner McDonough and stated he will continue to partner with Commissioner McDonough and all the agencies throughout the state so the motoring citizens can be protected in this state.

Commissioner McDonough introduced Lt. Maurice Raines who serves as the liaison with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for the DPS.

In regards to the Elliott decision on the administrative license suspension and the use of the breath machine, Commissioner McDonough stated Governor Kemp signed HB471, Sunday before last and

what this did as of that moment, the administrative license card has changed and the Department of Drivers Services will hopefully have that new card out in lime green fashion around July. Commissioner McDonough stated the Legal Update for all law enforcement will have the outcome of the bill signing and then the language that is going to be in the card. Commissioner McDonough noted for the past 17 years, it was unchallenged, and this is a huge shift in the mechanics of an arrest and how people are going to handle a DUI from this point forward. Commissioner McDonough noted this not only affects the average guy on the road, it affects GOHS and their decision making because there are performance based funds that come from the federal government, to include a task force in Savannah and will have to work very hard together to ensure that the momentum is kept going in DUI enforcement and do not see a shift in DUI fatalities and DUI arrests going down because of this. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged that most officers do not like change, everyone would like the law to stay the way it was, but the fact is, the law is a moving thing and based upon decisions, we have to adjust and officers, deputies and troopers always adjust and get the job done and does not think anything different will happen here.

In regard to the Savannah Port area, Commissioner McDonough stated he thought it was important to talk about some successes and trends in the fatalities from last year to this year. Commissioner McDonough stated as a whole, there is a positive trend in the down direction, a significant trend has occurred within the Commercial Motor Vehicle fatalities, where they have moved their efforts to the enforcement to those causation factors that causes accidents. Commissioner McDonough added the MCCD has not forgot about the inspection process, but the Stop the Threat Program is something that is active all over the state and for the first time in a long time, DPS has moved from the 4<sup>th</sup> position in fatalities of commercial motor vehicles to 5<sup>th</sup> position in the nation. Commissioner McDonough noted what is important about this is the last fiscal year, there were 237 commercial motor vehicle related fatalities and this year it dropped to 192 fatalities, which is a reduction of 19% in one year. Commissioner McDonough stated he does not think this just happens; this reflects a lot of hard work around the state to focus on those causation factors. Commissioner McDonough noted it is appropriate in the port area to recognize the efforts that MCCD has made and their success.

Commissioner McDonough introduced MCCD Lt. Brent Moore who gave a briefing on the Nuclear Radiological Detection Team. Mr. Moore advised the team has 16 officers and the purpose of the team works with large venues, large events such as the Super Bowl and part of the mission is to go out to the major venues to do a sweep with the equipment to look and see if there is any type of improvised nuclear devices on the property and dirty bombs, radiological dispersal advices, could be anything homemade that is meant to hurt someone. The third area ties directly into what MCCD does which is commercial vehicle and hazmat enforcement. Mr. Moore stated the team has been developed over the last 18 months. Mr. Moore advised the group has worked the Coke Zero 400 in Daytona, FL and worked a joint detail with the Florida Highway Patrol and the Dept. of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. In spring of 2018, Lt. Moore advised standard operation procedures were developed and concept of operations as to what the team should look like. In January 2019, was the first deployment of the team in support of Super Bowl 53.

Commissioner McDonough added that if one is planning a large event and have worries about the detection of people doing bad things, the NRDT can help. Commissioner McDonough stated this equipment is sensitive and noted that someone that is on chemotherapy, and urinated on the sidewalk, the NRAD team would be able to detect that and would be able to tell they were taking chemotherapy. This is the same type of stuff that could be used by a terrorist in a dirty bomb to spread that type of stuff that could have an impact on people's health. Commissioner McDonough noted this is an interesting capability that DPS now has and is an extension of what is done on the roadway and the same equipment can be removed from the vehicle and put into the aviation assets so if the Port Authority had a particular problem, they would be able to put that equipment airborne and use it for detection at the port. When it comes to large events, Commissioner McDonough stated the state now has these assets and added this is an extension of a relationship through the Southern Colonels Conference and the S&P Division of the IACP where all the Colonels get together, regionally and get to look what other people are doing, other capabilities or programs that we might be interested in our state and this is a direct result with our relationship with the Florida Highway Patrol. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged they have excellent relationships, essentially with Georgia being the hub, all the southern states around GA, this group of people works very closely, the same MDT software we have, we got that idea from the state of Florida and the NRAD team was another one. Commissioner McDonough stated this is an excellent relationship that in turn, ends up providing capabilities that are going to lend itself to our state whether it is a state operation or a local operation.

Vice-Chairman Wood ask Commissioner McDonough if there is something like an automatic tag reader type scenario at the Savannah Port that reviews all vehicles in and out. Commissioner McDonough advised they are developing with the DOT, a mobile site that a motor carrier officer can pull up and que into it and is an extension of the Weigh-In Motion at the weigh stations and is in the future at the Savannah Port. Commissioner McDonough advised the capability will be there, where electronic screenings of vehicles coming in and out of the port and where an officer sitting there, can use that to take enforcement or inspection action. Major Johnny Jones confirm this is operational currently. Major Jones added an officer can be patrolling the area and if a truck comes though there that is considered an out of service motor carrier by the Federal government, it will send an alert to MCCD and that officer can respond and intercept the vehicle.

Chief Bruce Carlisle shared that Capt. Roberson's nephew who is a Banks County deputy was struck by a car and seriously injured last weekend. Chief Carlisle advised he would be out of work for a year and asked everyone to remember that family in prayer.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation advised a survey in regard to the new DUI law was sent out through the Chiefs Association and the Sheriffs Association and the numbers are starting to come in. Mr. Kirk stated the following questions were asked; what was the total number of DUI arrests made by the agency in 2018, the total number of breath tests for alcohol in 2018 and what was the total number of blood tests for 2018 and what type of test do you anticipate doing in the future, breath or blood and do you expect the number of DUI arrests to increase or decrease because of the Elliott decision. Mr. Kirk added the purpose of the survey being sent out was to try and get a handle on exactly what the GBI can expect for the rest of this year and next year. Mr.

Kirk stated OPB will be asking the GBI what the impact will be and what resources will be needed. Mr. Kirk shared if the agencies go completely with blood tests, it will be very detrimental for the GBI lab and things will be backlogged. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI is just trying to get some actual numbers for the governor's office so that they can make some decisions about if any resources are going to be needed.

Mr. Kirk stated the other thing that will impact the GBI next year, is the Gordon Hope Act, which has to do with the production of CBD oil in the state. Mr. Kirk advised within the legislation, the GBI is named as a partner with the Department of Public Health for the regulation of the production of CBD oil. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI will have to have agents go out and inspect, agents will have to review security plans and will be a resource drain for the GBI, maybe from 5-10 people, depending where the CBD oil production goes. Mr. Kirk stated they will probably allow 4 or 6 private companies and two universities to produce the CBD oil. Mr. Kirk shared he was at a conference and just about every state has some sort of either in legislation or CBD oil legislation that went through their legislative session and does not know where the CBD oil legislation will go, either wind up on the shelf or be something different. Mr. Kirk stated the bottom line is it is coming not only in our state, but in the states around us.

Mr. Kirk stated the second piece of legislation that has passed, but not signed by the governor yet, is the Hemp Agriculture Act, which will allow the growing of hemp in Georgia. Mr. Kirk added the problem with this is when looking at the language that is in the law, they have taken out some of the things the GBI put in there to help the GBI from the lab standpoint to be able to maintain the marijuana identification program. Mr. Kirk advised most of the law enforcement agencies have a certified person who does a visual test, two color tests to identify small amounts of marijuana and the only thing the GBI lab does is the large seizures of marijuana. Mr. Kirk advised law enforcement does about 40,000 marijuana id tests on the street. Mr. Kirk advised this legislation, because it does not have the language in it that was originally put in by the GBI, there is no per say on marijuana, and the hemp plant and the marijuana plant are the same thing except that one is produced to higher amounts of THC, which provides the high that marijuana provides. The hemp plant is bred to provide fibers and a lower amount of THC. The plant itself is the same plant, looks the same, tests the same and the only way to tell one from the other is to bring the plant into the lab and perform a qualitative analysis on the amount of THC in the plant. Mr. Kirk stated the 40,000 tests on the street will come to the lab and will have to do qualitative analysis on it. Mr. Kirk stated for the GBI to do this, the lab is looking at about 30 more people in the chemistry section to do this. Mr. Kirk shared over the next few months into the year, the GBI will be looking at what is going to happen with CBD oil and hemp production and how that is going to affect the GBI Crime Lab.

Mr. Kirk advised the Pooler Crime Lab is still on schedule and looking at some time in August for a ribbon cutting.

In regard to the investigative division, Mr. Kirk stated the GBI has an old building in Thomson, GA, since 1974 and now have the money to replace the building. Mr. Kirk stated DOT has approached them for a right-of-way which will not impact the building of the facility, but in order to get that right-

of-way, the GBI has to go back to the county and do some negotiating on a reversal clause that is in the documents. Mr. Kirk advised a Resolution should be forthcoming within the next couple of months.

Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center thanked the BPS members for their support of the GPSTC. Mr. Hightower noted the GPSTC continues to grow as there is a lot of construction going on at GPSTC involving the cafeteria, ranges and facilities.

Mr. Hightower stated so far this year, GPSTC has touched 168,000 students.

Mr. Hightower introduced Mr. Hal Braswell, Academy Manager for the Garden City Training Center and thanked him for what they do at the Garden City Training Center. Mr. Hightower acknowledged the academies are full of 80-82 students at two different academies every 11 weeks.

Mr. Hightower shared the Georgia Public Safety Memorial will be May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the GPSTC.

#### **DONATIONS**

Major Mark Perry, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Two Stalker DSR2X Radars	\$	6,096.00	Colquitt Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Laser Labs Enforcer II Window Tint Meter	\$	60.00	Franklin Springs Police Dept.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully, and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Charles Sikes shared 57 years ago, President Kennedy signed legislation that had been sponsored by the professional associations in this nation, National Sheriffs Association FOP, IACP and the FBI National Academy Association to establish May 15<sup>th</sup>, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Mr. Sikes noted prior to that time, which ties back into the 200 Club and many of other things that exist on the private entity of this nation, prior to that time, peace officers or firemen, public safety people who were killed or injured in the line of duty, they pretty much passed the hat. And when they passed the hat, sometimes it worked and sometimes it did not, but was not a long-range effect. Mr. Sikes shared various entities came into existence at that time, DPS created the Death Benefit Fund, where most of the state officers belong to now, where a set amount of money is provided to the family upon their passing. This also started the creation of federal, state and local private and public level establishments of various benefits for public safety peace officers specifically in the event of death. Mr. Sikes shared there are many available for peace officer's families, fire families, EMT families killed in the duty or tragically injured. Mr. Sikes stressed there are only two days on the nation's calendar are under full time proclamation by the President of the United States for flags to be hung at half-mast, Peace Officers Memorial Day and Memorial Day, paying respect to those individuals at the national, state

and local level that have given their lives in order to maintain order. Mr. Sikes stated oftentimes back in the 60s when law enforcement assistance and administration and all things that came pretty much as of a result of National Peace Officers Memorial Day, the creation of law and order and those type of things and stated he was not sure that that should not have been order and law because those that wear the shield on a daily basis, if there is not order, there is no law and order is maintained by every peace officer in this nation that wears the shield. Mr. Sikes stated he thinks it is appropriate that we always remember May 15<sup>th</sup> as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and take the proper steps to recognize this throughout the nation and call this to the people's attention that this is a special day for those who wear the shield. Mr. Sikes stated on National Peace Officers Memorial Day the flag comes to half-mast all day long and on Memorial Day comes to half-mast to recognize those that have died serving this nation and goes to full-mast at 1200 hours to recognize those still serving this nation in the military throughout the world.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mr. Mark Revenew  
Secretary