

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Statesboro High School - Statesboro, Georgia

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Sheriff Steve Cronic  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Mr. Jack McElfish  
Mr. Brian Owens  
Governor Sonny Perdue  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Sheriff H. Cullen Talton, Jr.  
Mr. Gerald T. Willis, Sr.  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Danny Bryant  
Chief Lou Dekmar  
Retired Sheriff Bruce Harris  
Mr. Patrick H. Head

**OTHERS:**

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl Buie, Board Liaison  
Colonel W. W. Hitchens, Jr., Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel F. D. Snellings, Jr., Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
Major Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Chief Mark McLeod, Department of Public Safety, Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
Captain Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Captain K. B. McGlamery, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Lieutenant W. W. Hitchens, III, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Lieutenant. J. L. Brewer, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Sergeant Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Captain Jimmy P. Wood, Department of Public Safety, MCCD  
Lieutenant Blair Hanton, Department of Public Safety, MCCD  
Sergeant Antonio L. Hall, Department of Public Safety, MCCD  
Deputy Director Rusty Andrews, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Dr. George Herrin, Jr., Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Comptroller Joseph W. Hood, Department of Public Safety  
Deputy Director Forest B. (Butch) Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Deputy Director Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mrs. Rachael Kight  
Mrs. Joyce White, Office of the Governor  
Miss Laura Jones, Department of Corrections  
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Department of Corrections

Mr. Cedric Taylor, Department of Corrections, Special Operations  
Ms. Amy Fortner, Department of Corrections, Unit Manager  
Mr. Jamie Jordan, Department of Corrections, Canine Handler  
Mr. Pat Finnerty, Department of Corrections, Canine Handler  
Mr. Brad Johnson, Department of Corrections, Canine Handler  
Mr. Chris Reaves, Department of Corrections, Canine Handler  
Mr. Buster King, Department of Corrections, Training Instructor  
Mr. Maurio Sinkford, Department of Corrections, Training Instructor  
Mr. Ray Higgins, Department of Driver Services

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the October Board of Public Safety meeting to order welcoming the Statesboro High School students and Southeast Bulloch High School students. Mr. Wood called on Governor Sonny Perdue to give the devotional. Vice-Chairman Wood then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following presentations were presented to the students of Statesboro High School and Southeast Bulloch High School:

Major Mark W. McDonough, Commanding Officer of the Georgia State Patrol gave a power point presentation on motorcycle safety and statistics for crashes worked in Bulloch County involving teenagers.

Deputy Director Rusty Andrews of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation spoke to the student body about Criminal History Records. Deputy Director Andrews stressed the importance of staying out of trouble and having a clean Criminal History Record.

Mr. Ray Higgins of the Department of Driver Services spoke to the student body about teenage driving laws.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens introduced Mr. Cedric Taylor, Manager of Special Operations for DOC. Mr. Taylor introduced several members of the DOC Canine Unit who showed demonstrations with their canines in the search for drugs and explosives and also demonstrated an attack dog.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the September Board minutes. Chief Jack McElfish made the motion, seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approval by the Board members.

### **DIRECT REPORTS**

Colonel W. W. Hitchens, Jr., Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety began by telling the Board members that MCCC Chief Mark McLeod would be retiring with 34 years of service, effective December 1, 2010.

Colonel Hitchens went on to advise the Board members that DPS would be presenting a resolution next month authorizing DPS to enter into negotiations with Monroe County for the construction of a new post for Post 44 – Forsyth which will be built on its current site. Colonel Hitchens stated that Post 10 – Americus was almost complete.

Colonel Hitchens stated the Governor’s Annual Customer Service Awards were presented yesterday and that DPS had the most finalists up for the customer service awards.

In regards to the budget, Colonel Hitchens stated that the budget in 2009 was 118 million and has been reduced to 84 million dollars.

Deputy Director Rusty Andrews, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated GBI had 242 sworn agents at this time, having lost 30 agents in the last year. Deputy Director Andrews advised at this time GBI is processing a small pool of eligible applicants to hire from in the event GBI is able to begin hiring agents next year.

Dr. George Herrin, Jr., Deputy Director for GBI Division of Forensic Sciences stated with the conditions that the GBI is working under, the Crime Labs are doing pretty well. Dr. Herrin stated that 40 people (30%) of those working in the Crime Lab positions are grant funded and GBI is working to try and get these people transitioned to state positions; while all the training is coming to a close by the end of the year or early January 2011. Dr. Herrin advised that the Toxicology Center in Augusta is up and running and GBI will see a dramatic improvement in the turn around. GBI has reopened the Moultrie Lab which is being used as a receiving lab. GBI is moving forward with the Moultrie Lab and the Columbus Lab.

Deputy Director Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stated the GPSTC Board report statistics are straightforward. The training continues to decline with most of it occurring off-campus. Deputy Director Beach went on to advise the Board members that the Governor’s Public Safety Awards program will be held the second week in November and when the date is confirmed, invitations will be mailed out to the Board members. Deputy Director Beach stated that Colonel Hitchens and Director Kennan have been nominated to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **DONATIONS**

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One X26 Taser	\$ 793.70	Donalsonville PD
One Stalker DSR-2X Radar	\$2,995.00	Spalding County SO
Two Genesis II KA Dual Band Radars	\$2,932.50	Cook County SO

The motion for these donations was made by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donation:

32 Copies of the 2009 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code	\$2,720.00	GA Fire Safety Symposium Com.
--	------------	-------------------------------

Chief Jack McElfish made this donation approval motion; it was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Fire Chief Jack McElfish stated that his city manager in Sandy Springs and the city manager of Johns Creek operate a joint communications center and have experienced a reduction in 911 fees. Chief McElfish stated the city managers are going to ask their legislators to increase the fees of local municipalities from \$1.50 to at least \$2.00 and wanted the Board members to beware of this and ask for their consideration of this in the future.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion that the Board prepare and present a resolution to Chief Mark C. McLeod at the November meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Gerald Willis and voted approval by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated the November and December meetings would be held in the Department of Corrections Board Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Secretary