

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

October 11, 2007
Statesboro, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Mr. Dub Harper
Mr. Gene Stuckey
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bud Black
Sheriff Steve Cronic
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Cullen Talton

Note: Mr. Pat Head was connected to the meeting via telephone.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Todd White, Board Attorney
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Porter Wood, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, State Patrol
Major Wayne Beck, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, State Patrol
Captain Mike Fagler, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Tad Bentley, Georgia State Patrol
SFC Chris Wright, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant William Hitchens, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Kirk McGlamery, Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
SAC Mike Fordham, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
SAC John Edwards, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Director Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Joan Keenan, wife of Director Vernon Keenan
Mr. Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Department of Corrections

Dr. Michael Guido
Representative Butch Parrish
Ms. Connie Averitt, friend of the Board
Mr. Raybon Anderson

Retired Sheriff Arnold Ray Akins
Fire Chief Dennis Merrifield
Mr. Joe Brannon, City Council
Mr. Ted Wynn, Public Safety Director
Mayor Bill Hatcher
Retired GBI Charles Sikes
Sheriff Lynn Anderson
Mr. Ken Brown, Chief of Public Safety of Georgia Southern University
Police Chief Stan York

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald opened the meeting on behalf of Governor Perdue who is the Chairman of Board of Public Safety. Vice-Chairman Donald began with thanking the community for hosting the Board members. Vice-Chairman Donald asked Dr. Michael Guido to come before the Board members and start the meeting with a blessing. Vice-Chairman Donald welcomed all visitors, and asked Mr. Ellis Wood to introduced his Statesboro guests.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated the audience is invited to make comments and questions about what the Board is doing. The mission of the Board of Public Safety is to review the policies that exist that pertain to all security in the community; therefore, any questions relating to that is appropriate.

There not being a quorum for the meeting, Vice-Chairman Donald stated the Board would proceed and handle voting later in the meeting. For voting purposes, Mr. Pat Head will later be connected by telephone to the Board meeting.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with stating it is great for him to be here today and see the people of Statesboro again. Colonel is from Rincon, went to school here, and was a Troop Commander here from 1990 to 1994. Colonel stated he has many good friends in Statesboro. Colonel Hitchens publicly thanked Mr. Charles Sikes for many years of friendship; both have similar backgrounds, and, Mr. Sikes has been encouraging and supportive in many areas of Colonel's career and life.

Colonel Hitchens reported that at the September Board meeting, a Board Member presented a question about the status of Patrol Post in Gainesville. With a handout, he pointed out that State Patrol has gone through proper channels and the delay is about legal issues between county, state, and attorney general's office. The county is going to build a new post on the grounds of the existing post. But there is a problem with how the land will be deeded. Another meeting will be held to discuss exactly

how that will be done. Colonel Hitchens stated he will be able to report on this at next month's Board meeting.

Colonel Hitchens reported that he will be attending the IACP conference in New Orleans next week. State Patrol placed Third Place in the national Chiefs Challenge for Highway Patrol organizations. Georgia State Patrol placed Second Place last year; however, Georgia is the only state that remains in the top three this year. His people have done a great job in their enforcement and activities throughout the year, and, he is proud of them.

Two weeks ago at the National DOT DEA conference, Georgia State Patrol Criminal Interdiction Unit was named the Outstanding Criminal Interdiction Team in the United States. A senior trooper David Jones was awarded excellence; one of five people in the country who did that. Sergeant First Class Mitchell was named Outstanding Criminal Interdiction Traffic Enforcement Officer in the United States. Colonel Hitchens is very proud to report on that.

Colonel Hitchens reported that Customer Service is high on the agenda in state government right now. State Patrol was part of the project that identified ten different agencies, and, Georgia State University ran a survey that determined certain aspects of job performance how State Patrol stood. State Patrol was high in every aspect; in three categories, the highest in the state. Colonel stated it is difficult sometimes because this agency is involved primarily with enforcement and to help people. It is difficult for them to understand they have been helped. On October 29th, the State Customer Awards will be held and an individual in State Patrol will receive an award.

Commissioner Donald stated that Colonel Hitchens has done a great job with Homeland Security and Department of Public Safety. There is no man in state government who has been held in higher esteem than Colonel Bill Hitchens. Commissioner Donald stated it does not strike him as a surprise that troopers did so well in Criminal Interdiction side of the house, and, now received award in the Customer Service side. Commissioner Donald stated, on behalf of Governor Perdue, how much the Board appreciates Colonel Hitchens as leader of Georgia State Patrol. Mr. Rooney Bowen added he has enjoyed knowing Colonel Hitchens and values his friendship and leadership abilities. Mr. Bowen requested that CIU troopers be invited to the November Board meeting.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with reporting that he serves on the Dangerous and Narcotics Drugs Committee under International Association of Chiefs of Police. He and Colonel Hitchens will be attending the annual IACP conference. Director Keenan will be doing a presentation to the Dangerous Drugs and Narcotics Committee regarding on the impact of Mexican Drug Gangs in the State of Georgia. Director brought an abbreviated version of the presentation that will be done regarding impact of Mexican drug organizations on state and local investigations.

With a powerpoint slide, Director Keenan began with setting the stage on what dealing with in State of Georgia. A shift has been seen in the drug problem in the last ten years. Georgia is not unique in the drug problem, as far as impact as Mexican drug gangs on drug trafficking problem. There is the

problem of Mexican drug gangs throughout the United States, but Georgia has the additional problem in that Atlanta is a transportation hub throughout the United States. What is seen is that Mexican drug trafficking drug organizations are the most pervasive threat with respect to transportation and wholesale distribution in Georgia. Mexican gangs have cornered the market on the wholesale distribution of drugs in southeast United States. Georgia will continue to see their involvement increase in this area. Commissioner Donald added that the one-half of the Hispanic inmate population in Georgia prison system is in prison for the reason for drug trafficking. Director Keenan stated the Mexican drug organization account for 90% of the supply of drugs in Georgia. They have an established infrastructure; are dominated by Mexican Nationals; and there is poor control of Precursor Chemicals in Mexico. Director Keenan explained that he will show statistics in a few minutes about how the supply problem has shifted from a small lab; to the supply being provided by Mexican gangs, who make methamphetamine in super labs in Mexico.

Director Keenan described the impact of working Mexican drug traffic organizations on state and local investigations. First is the Language problem.

There is the problem of doing basic investigations because there is a lack of Spanish-speaking officers at the state and local levels. As an example, there is one GBI agent, who is fluent in Spanish. Local agencies and federal agencies loan officers to GBI to make up for the shortage of Spanish-speaking officers. There is intense competition to hire the officers who are fluent in Spanish, not only for drug enforcement but for other basic law enforcement operations. A Spanish-speaking officer is a sought after commodity. Not being able to speak the language of witnesses and of targets in an investigation, this creates a barrier to an effective investigative process. The barrier exists not only in drug investigations but in all manner of law enforcement work.

In dealing with Mexican gangs, there is a Culture barrier that must be addressed. The witnesses and suspects of Mexican gangs are very distrustful and suspicious of law enforcement. Here again, this comes because of the heavy-ended techniques that are employed in Mexico. Director Keenan described an example of how major the difference can be of the way business is done in United States and the way business is done with Mexican police. The GBI routinely works cases involving violence committed against Mexican nationals and murder cases where the victim is a Mexican national and the suspect is a Mexican national. Director Keenan stated when working those cases and the suspect goes back to Mexico, they will not extradite the criminal back to Georgia for prosecution. Mexican authorities tell GBI to send their investigative file in order for Mexican authorities to read the file and prosecute then the suspect in Mexico. The Mexican authorities proceed only with the GBI file and no witnesses.

Another impact is Organized structure. The Mexican gangs have a formal command and control structure; this is an organized \$1 billion business with multiple gangs. They are very compartmentalized; if they stay in business long term, this is the way they survive. If a major arrest is made of one unit, that is only one compartment of the overall operation. The organization will continue on; it will be just minus the compartment that had been arrested and prosecuted. When making an arrest, most likely there is an arrest of a soldier; one who is the lower ranking perpetrator and has no knowledge of the overall organization itself. This is why it is so important to have

cooperation with federal agencies so when making an arrest at the state or local level, that information goes to the federal authority who then can tie this into their larger investigation.

Another impact is Violence. The aspect of violence of Mexican gangs is something every sheriff and police chief in Georgia can speak to of having seen. A level of violence increases in the Hispanic community and much is attributed directly to the Mexican gangs. The gangs not only kill off competitors, but they threaten family members of competitors or persons who are providing information against the gangs. A gang operating in United States has fellow gang members in Mexico and when making threats, they have the capability of having that threat carried out in Mexico. There has been an increase in the number of Mexican victims who have been found murdered execution style in this state. Most of these are drug competitors, but in some instances, they are victims who are murdered to send a message to a competitor. The GBI worked a case in southwest Georgia three years ago when five members of a family were murdered; that was an execution carried out to send a message to drug competitors.

The question is Who Are They? When working Mexican drug dealers, what is their real identity? Are they a U.S. Citizen, are they a Resident Alien; or are they Illegal Alien? This is the first question that the officers ask themselves in trying to determine this. Director Keenan stated that because of the way the organizations operate in the large Hispanic communities, it is easy for someone to provide a false name and then be arrested; but when released from custody, the person disappears into the community or goes back to Mexico. Using fraudulent documents is normal practice, this is part of the way to do business. This is one of the reasons why Governor's initiative to address fraudulent documents used to secure Georgia driver's licenses and Georgia identification cards are so important. This gives law enforcement opportunity to address the impact on drug operations. Director Keenan has spoken to many bail bondsmen whose view is that when bonding out someone who is an illegal alien that the money going to the bond is wasted because the illegal alien goes back to Mexico and never appears in court and never has to answer charges against him. Governor Perdue authorized GBI and State Patrol to go forward and be involved in immigration and custom enforcement 289G Program, which allows state and local law enforcement officers to make illegal alien detentions. If that person is here illegally, then GBI will be able to hold onto them, even if the person makes bond.

As Strategies to Combat Mexican DTO's, Director Keenan stated this relates around new resources which Governor Perdue recommended to the General Assembly and the General Assembly funded the GBI in providing new agents to work the Mexican gangs. As Board members will recall, two years ago the Legislature appropriated funds for GBI to hire fifteen agents. The GBI now has fifteen agents who will complete training and go to the street. Also, GBI shifted resources into task forces, which are designed to combat the Mexican drug gangs. The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDEFT) has been in operation for a number of years and is designed to combat these type gangs. GBI is also assigning more agents to the Drug Enforcement Administration, because they have the capacity to tie the GBI into what Georgia is dealing with in what is occurring on the federal level. The GBI has taken some new agents and assigned them to Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Agents are assigned to Fraudulent Documents Unit; they are doing very substantial work and Director Keenan will report in the future on their successes. Director Keenan stated there are plans

now for Atlanta HIDTA to expand from the metro counties to a twenty-county area in Atlanta. With a map of the metro counties, Director Keenan stated in looking at area of operation for Atlanta HIDTA, the green shaded area reflects the current 2006 Atlanta HIDTA counties. The red shaded area on the map reflects where there has been substantial drug activity during 2006 and 2007. He pointed out the drug gang problem is not centered in the core of metro Atlanta; it occurs in surrounding areas. The plan is for HIDTA to expand to encompass these areas.

With a chart, Drug Cases 2002-2007, Director Keenan reported that this depicts the most accurate picture of what is happening with drug enforcement in the state. The diagram depicts the drug cases which have been submitted to the GBI Crime Lab for analysis; this chart gives the best picture of what is happening in the drug enforcement operations. Director Keenan pointed out that cocaine continues to be the primary drug that law enforcement is dealing with. Vice-Chairman Donald added that the Department of Corrections prison system is taking in 300 methamphetamine intakes each month. Just on this one drug, the prison system averages almost 3,000 inmates per year. The concentration of this drug tends to be in rural communities and the cocaine tends to be inside the metropolitan areas. Director Keenan stated that is an excellent point; someone who is convicted for distribution of methamphetamine is generally a user. Unlike the dealers in cocaine and other drugs, methamphetamine brings severe health problems. Death Mouth is a term used for someone who is a regular user of methamphetamine; meaning their teeth decay and drop out. Of the three top drugs, Other Drugs are prescription drugs and also are a major problem.

With the next slide, Georgia Drug Arrests, Director Keenan described a chart that speaks to law enforcement efforts. When it comes to drug enforcement, law enforcement are making felony arrests. The next slide, Prison Admissions, reflects that Cocaine is still a major problem; but methamphetamine use continues to grow. Meth use brings its own unique problems; beside physical damage, there are mental health problems and violence and sexual abuse.

Director Keenan continued with slides reflecting Drugs Seized. From the Atlanta HIDTA area, cocaine is the major drug, followed by methamphetamine and marijuana. The next chart reflects drugs seized by the Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces, which are thirty task forces operating in Georgia. The next chart reflected drugs seized by GBI; wherein, Director Keenan directed attention to the increase in productivity in 2007. This speaks to what happens when an agency receives additional resources and puts those to work, then there is an increase in seizures, arrests, and prosecutions. Along with drug seizures, comes Currency Seizures. Georgia State Patrol can speak to that, because the Highway Interdiction Unit seizes both of those; seizing hundreds of thousands of dollars at one time.

The next slide, Georgia Clan Lab Seizures, speaks to what happened to the methamphetamine problem in Georgia. In 2000, the number of labs started out small; those that were operated in kitchens and produced small amounts of methamphetamine. Then, a wave of methamphetamine came into the state; the numbers spiked in 2004, with a large number of labs seized in Georgia. Then, the decrease began. In 2004, the General Assembly began passing Legislation which restricted the availability of pseudoephedrine behind the counter in retail stores, along with requiring maintenance of records at the wholesale level. The new methamphetamine laws and restriction of pseudoephedrine, coupled with aggressive law enforcement actions at state and local levels brought the drop. The negative is that

while the meth supply was decreasing, the Mexican gangs stepped in with their productions of super labs and supplied the methamphetamine. Supplying meth to the point that methamphetamine sells for less than the cost than manufacturing it. The meth problem is far from being eliminated.

Director Keenan continued with stating not only does law enforcement deal with cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana being transported into Georgia and distributed throughout the southeast, there have been super labs come in and set up. A super lab is a laboratory producing more than ten pounds of methamphetamine at one cook. In pointing at a chart, Record ICE Seizures in Georgia, Georgia has ranked first, fourth, sixth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh in the Nation. The First Place being 378 pounds seized in metro Atlanta by Federal Drug Administration.

Director Keenan closed out by saying that the drug enforcement in this state is handled primarily at the local level. That is done by Police Department and by Sheriffs Department. The vast majority of arrests and seizures are done by local law enforcement officers who are responsible for protecting their community. This is very much a partnership from the state and local level.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with reporting that the Training Center had a power outage on Monday a week ago. This involved a 20-year-old line bringing in about 5kw and it blowing out. Thinking the problem was a transformer, everything to the transformer was disconnected and checked. The transformer was good and it turned out to be one of the five lines that feed the building. Power was restored by 8:00 that night. Some of the students were sent home, and those who could not be, were put in a local hotel. The cost of one night in a hotel was \$9,500.00 for the Training Center. Director Mann tells this as an example of what to expect, because the Training Center is over 20 years old and the infrastructure is over 20 years old; so this will get worse.

With a powerpoint presentation, Director Mann began with reporting on the Ad Hoc Committee. On September 19, several staff members and Board Member Ellis Wood visited Florida's Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. The group was received very well by Mr. Mike Cruze, Executive Director of Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The Florida Commission answered every question and was as candid as they could be.

The Florida Commission, comparable to Georgia's Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, is made up of nineteen members appointed by Florida's Governor. The Commission has minimum standards for training and employment certification for almost 46,000 law enforcement officers. It has minimum standards for training and certification for almost 9,000 instructors. And has minimum standards for certification for 41 training schools, and that is how many certified academies in Florida. The Professionalism Program supports their Standards and Training Commission. They actually also certify Medical Examiners and Commission on Florida Accreditation. They administer the Florida Alcohol Testing Program, where in Georgia it is overseen by GBI. They develop and deliver leadership and management training for criminal justice executives, and, develop and deliver the FDLE Special Agent Training, which is equivalent to GBI. Their funding is different; rather than Peace Officers and Prosecutor Training Fund, Florida has a \$3 fine on all civil and criminal penalties; which generates \$16 million annually. They were candid in stating that money is not dedicated to

them, and they struggle trying to get the money back out of General Treasury. They have a Trust Fund for operation of the Commission, for operation of Programs, and for Advanced and Specialized Training for officers at no cost to local agencies. Director Mann stated their annual average per officer for advanced specialized training is \$80. They regulate expenditures through Florida Statute and Commission Rules. Florida is divided into sixteen training regions; money is distributed to regions based on officer population at roughly \$6 million per year. The Expenditure Formula states 80% of the funds must be used for direct delivery of advanced and specialized training; with 20% as administrative overhead.

Officer Training is broken down into Advanced, Specialized, and Basic. Their Basic Training course is 770 hours, compared to Georgia's Training of 408 hours. Florida's Basic Correctional training is 532 hours, Probation Training is 412 hours, and Proficiency demonstration is required for high liability training, which is drivers training, firearms, etc. Director Mann stated what is interesting is that Florida spends no money from state budget on Basic Training. They require the student to either pay for Basic Training or apply for any kind of grant. Florida stated their tuition is based on where the student goes; such as, one school may be \$1,000 and another school may be \$2,500. Certification Examination was compared; i.e., in Georgia when the academy director signs off stating the student has passed off all examinations, then that student is P.O.S.T. certified. Which is contrary to how other professions do business, such as after completing law school, the student is then required to take the State Bar to be certified; or, a student nurse graduates from nursing school but has to complete the Nursing exam; or, a barber or beautician student has to pass a state certification exam. Director Mann stated Georgia needs a Peace Officer Certification exam. With a handout, Director Mann pointed out a chart of community colleges. Chipola College had sixteen students who took the state certification exam, with a 52% pass rate. Looking at Broward Community College, it had 93% pass rate first time through the state certification exam. Florida allows their officers four years to get through training and to become certified. Through the four years, the student can take the state exam three times, paying \$100 each time taking the exam. Mr. Wood added that the regions have supervisors out of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and, the supervisor is in charge of his region. The supervisor monitors that region of teachers and testing, monitoring criteria involving population level and education level. Further explaining, Director Mann stated the Commission has an entrance exam and is working to get the exam back up again. The entrance exam costs an applicant \$35 at a minimum and a private vendor handles that requirement; so that if there is a challenge, the private vendor has to defend. Director Mann continued with stating it is statutorily mandated to measure cognitive performance of curriculum; based on objectives on curriculum, ensure consistency and delivery of training across Florida; monthly administrations are readily available across the state; and about 8,500 exams are administered annually at the cost of \$100 apiece.

Training School Certification requirements are outlined in the Commission Rule, in that there is a needs assessment required for certification; the academies are re-certified every five years; a satisfaction survey is required twice during those five years; and facility inspections are done annually. Director Mann stated there are Field Specialists who monitor training to ensure compliance. The Commission has auditors to review all class files to discover any deficiencies. Instructor Certification is outlined in Commission Rule, wherein certifications are valid for four-year cycles. Comparing to Georgia, the state certifies an officer forever, unless the officer becomes decertified, suspended, or

misses the 20 hours of mandated training. Florida requires that instructors must be certified to instruct any Commission course; there are special certifications for high liability areas; and Field Specialists review all instructor files prior to approving certification. Officer Certification is valid for a four-year cycle; requires continuing education to maintain certification; and requires firearms proficiency every other year. Field Specialists review all officer files prior to approving certification.

Under Records Management, there are approximately 86,000 Florida officers, including Corrections and others required to be certified; there is automated officer training, employment and certification tracking system; over 500 agencies enter officer training and employment information on-line; Field Specialists review files at agency and documentation is required to be sent to Headquarters to correct deficiencies or errors. Under Professional Compliance, officers and training schools may be disciplined by Commission and there are Disciplinary Guidelines. Under State Officer Certification Exam, Director Mann stated everybody has to pass the Officer Certification Examination to be eligible for employment. If that person has not passed the Certification exam, that person cannot be hired as a peace officer. However, that person can be hired but that person cannot be a peace officer. The State Officer Certification Examination ensures that Florida has attained the minimum level of knowledge to serve in capacity as a law enforcement officer or correctional officer or correctional probation officer.

Director Mann continued with pointing out Basic Recruit Training Courses, such as Auxiliary Officer Basic is 317 hours; CMS Application Base is 770 hours; Traditional Correctional is 532 hours. Florida has two methods to register for exam, i.e., online, or, by original application. Florida Employment Requirements are different from Georgia; such as requiring the officer to be 19 years of age; has to be a citizen of United States; has to have a high school diploma or equivalent; not convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (involving perjury or false statement); restrict any person who, after July 1, 1981, is guilty of felony or misdemeanor involving perjury; and restrict anyone who has received a dishonorable discharge from Armed Forces of United States. Florida's Employment Requirements include Good, Moral Character; pass a Basic Abilities Test, or, completed an equivalency test for out of state officers; achieve passing score on State Officer Certification Exam; have fingerprints processed by FDLE and FBI; pass a background investigation; pass a physical examination; or, if already a certified officer, complied with mandatory re-training or educational requirements. Mandatory Re-Training Requirements call for a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary officer to complete at least forty hours of training every four years. College credit courses may be completed to meet re-training requirements; Human Diversity training is required; one hour each year of Dart-Firing Stun Gun for those officers authorized to use a stun gun; Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops Training; Domestic Violence training is required; Juvenile Sexual Offender Investigations Training; every two years Use of Force Training and Firearms qualification.

Director Mann stated that in Florida, if an officer fails to meet the mandatory re-training requirement, the officer shall become inactive until officer satisfies mandatory re-training requirements. Florida states that if the person does not get the training, the officer is not a peace officer any more. Florida has an incentive salary plan; the maximum of \$130 per month, a stipend sent directly to the officer. If an officer has a community college degree, the officer receives \$30 per month; if a bachelor's degree, officer receives \$50 per month; if officer has 480 hours of approved career development program training courses, officer receives \$120 per month.

Mr. Ellis Wood addressed the Board members about the Ad Hoc/Basic Mandate Training Committee. Mr. Wood thanked Director Mann and Public Safety Training staff for hosting these meetings. With a handout, Mr. Wood reported on the last Committee meeting. The Committee re-addressed concerns that had been expressed to the Committee members, which were summarized in the handout. Mr. Wood stated the Committee focused on three points. The Committee believes to continue to promote and develop a proper relationship with DTAE for some type basic mandate training by utilizing the personnel in the DTAE facilities. Mr. Wood reiterated Director Mann's information that Florida is teaching their courses in 41 locations throughout Florida. The next planned meeting at Public Safety Training Center is Tuesday, October 23 at 1:30 p.m. The focus of that meeting will be to meet with DTAE and continue getting information relating to first issue. The second issue is to encourage development of a standard certification criteria along with some type associated accreditation. That is for P.O.S.T., who has that governing authority to continue to work toward a certification criteria. The last issue is to include some type plan for the proper use and responsibility of the Regional Academies. Mr. Wood stated he and Director Mann will be visiting North Carolina to seek as much information as possible. After roundtable discussion, comments and questions, Director Mann and Mr. Wood completed their reports.

For voting purposes, Mr. Pat Head was then connected via telephone to the Board meeting.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

Four Genesis II Select Directional Radars	\$ 5,800.00	Hancock County Commissioners
Two Dell Laptop Computers	\$ 962.98	Monroe County Sheriff
Four Kustom Signal Pro Laser III Units	\$12,000.00	Cherokee County Sheriff and City of Canton
Funding for Troopers Assigned To Race Detail at Atlanta Motor Speedway	\$13,503.00	Atlanta Motor Speedway

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, brought the following donation for approval:

Donation	\$ 1,000.00	Atlanta Gas Light Resources
For Use at Arson Burn Simulator		

Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, brought the following donation for approval:

2003 Ford Expedition	\$14,830.00	Social Security Administration
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Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion to approve the donations for Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol and Georgia Public Safety Training Center and for Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve the September Board Minutes, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar and voted approval by the Board members.

There being no Emergency/Administrative Issues, Vice-Chairman Donald called for Old or New Business.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to go into Executive Session, said motion seconded by Mr. Gene Stuckey. All members present affirmatively approved. Following Executive Session, Mr. Rooney L. Bowen voted to go back into Regular Session, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar and Board members approving.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman James Donald announced the November Board meeting will be held on the 7th at the Columbus Trade Center. That is on track; notice will be sent out concerning this meeting.

Mr. Wayne Dasher, who is with the Board of Corrections, sends his invitation that everyone attend the Firefighters Appreciation Cookout. The cookout will be held tonight at Dasher's Pond House.

Vice-Chairman Donald thanked the community for their gracious hospitality and for inviting the Board members; especially, Mr. Ellis Wood for bringing in the city and county leadership to the meeting.

Chief Lou Dekmar thanked Director Vernon Keenan for making Mr. John Bankhead available to the Chiefs and Sheriffs on issues that both Associations are addressing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary