

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

January 12, 2012

Department of Corrections Board Room – Atlanta, GA

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Chief Jon Canada  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Sheriff Steven D. Cronic  
Chief Louis M. Dekmar  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Mr. Patrick H. Head  
Commissioner Brian Owens  
Sheriff H. Cullen Talton

**OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Colonel Mark W. McDonough, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
Major Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Major H. Wayne Beck, Department of Public Safety, MCCD  
Captain Allen Marlowe, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol  
Sergeant Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Joe Hood, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Allison Hodge, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Vernon Keenan, Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Lisa Ulrich, Fiscal Officer, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Terry Gibbons, Deputy Director-GCIC, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Marsha O'Neal, Assistant Deputy Director-GCIC, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Tim Bearden, Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. W. H. "Bill" Bryant, Jr., Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Ms. Patrice Kerner, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mr. J. Dale Mann  
Mrs. Janice Mann  
Mr. Scott Wood  
Mrs. Vonnie Stewart, Department of Corrections  
Mr. Dwayne Garris, State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal's Office  
Mr. Chris Stephens, Deputy State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal's Office

Mr. Bart Gobeil, Chief Operating Officer, Governor Deal's Office  
Representative Ann Purcell  
Chief Bill Myers  
Mr. Brian M. Rickman  
Sheriff Gary C. Vowell  
Chief Irene Pennington

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the January Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Wood called on Major Eddie Grier, Commanding Officer of the Georgia State Patrol for the invocation and prayer. Prior to the invocation, Major Grier bragged on his troopers for stopping nearly 15,000 vehicles over the New Year's Holiday weekend, which was the goal that was set; to try and let people see the troopers out there and to save a few lives. Major Grier stated he could not recall a time in his career that 15,000 cars were stopped over a weekend, especially with the manpower and fuel shortages that GSP has. Major Grier stated he was really proud of the troopers and the job they have done. After the invocation and prayer, Major Grier led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed Mr. Bart Gobeil, Chief Operating Officer of Governor Deal's office sharing that Mr. Gobeil has been a strong supporter of the BPS and very supportive in decisions that were made last year and is a great advocate for the BPS.

Mr. Gobeil congratulated the new members on their appointment to the BPS and speaking for Governor Deal he thanked the agencies that the BPS oversees for everything that they do to ensure the safety for the citizens in the state of Georgia.

Chief Jon Canada introduced and welcomed Mr. Dwayne Garris, the State of Georgia Fire Marshal stating he was a great guy and will do a lot of good things for the State of Georgia and the fire service.

Fire Marshal Garris responded that he appreciated the opportunity to be here today and has worked for the state of Georgia since 1988, working his way up through the ranks and looks to help move the fire services forward in Georgia and offered his support and help to the Board of Public Safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed the four new appointees to the Board of Public Safety who will be sworn in on January 25, 2012 at 1100 hours at the Capitol.

Chief Jon Canada introduced new BPS appointee, Fire Chief Bill Myers who is a 29 year veteran with the Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services which is the largest fire service in the state of Georgia; has about 30 stations and 800 plus employees. Chief Canada stated Chief Myers is not only a colleague in the fire service but also a friend and will do a great job as a BPS member.

Chief Myers acknowledged it was quite an honor and overwhelming to be appointed to the BPS and looks forward to being able to serve with each of the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough introduced new BPS appointee District Attorney Brian Rickman whom they call the Boy Wonder in Rabun County. Commissioner McDonough stated Brian is one of the youngest that done certain things in the NE GA area and Commissioner McDonough first got to know Brian when he was 19 years old working at the ADA's office in Banks County and Commissioner McDonough was working interdiction back then. Commissioner McDonough stated it was nice to come into the DA's office and tell trooper stories and see a 19 year old go golly and now he is the District Attorney for the Mountain Judicial Court Circuit and who knows what God has in Brian's future. Commissioner McDonough added that the Board will appreciate Brian's common sense; he is the salt of the earth Rabun County.

Mr. Rickman echoed what was said earlier that it was overwhelming to be here in the presence of a lot of experienced and good people and will do his best to do a good job for the Board. Mr. Rickman added that he has worked with Commissioner McDonough and Director Keenan and the two most important things in his world are his five year old son and three year old daughter and because of the leadership of Commissioner McDonough and Director Keenan his children are safe and he is glad to be a part of helping to make things safe and will be glad to get to know everyone.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III introduced new BPS appointee Sheriff Gary Vowell who became Sheriff of Tift County after his retirement from the Georgia State Patrol. Mr. Bowen added that Sheriff Vowell has become one of the model sheriffs in South Georgia.

Sheriff Vowell stated it was an honor and a privilege to be here among fine men and it is good to be connected back with the Georgia State Patrol. Sheriff Vowell added that he had been Sheriff for 16 years and was with the GSP for 20 years and if he was cut today he would still bleed blue. Sheriff Vowell stated he is honored that this Board has accepted him and looks forward to serving to the best of his ability.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced new BPS appointee Chief Irene Pennington of the Thunderbolt Police Department from his part of the country.

Chief Pennington expressed that she appreciates the opportunity to share this position with everyone and will do her best to serve the Board and all the surrounding agencies.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III read and presented a Resolution to Mr. J. Dale Mann, former Director of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Mr. Mann thanked the Board members for this great honor and stated he enjoyed his time serving in every capacity at the GPSTC which is a very special place. Mr. Mann added that working with the BPS over the years has been very special and if he can ever be of help to anyone as a private citizen he will be glad to.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced Representative Ann Purcell, a close friend of his who was named by the Speaker of the House to be the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee for the House.

Representative Purcell stated it was her honor to serve not only as a Representative in the GA House of Representatives, but to serve as the Chairman of Public Safety and Homeland Security. Representative Purcell added that she is very excited about the appointment and has a lot to learn and will depend on each of the Boards that are associated with Public Safety and those involved through the commissions in the various agencies that are under public safety and homeland security. Representative Purcell stated that it has been very active the past three days and she is excited about being here and needs the BPS assistance as she goes forward and appreciates many of those here today as she knows them and appreciates the whole Board for the time that they give to the state of Georgia and for Public Safety and direction. Representative Purcell asked that the BPS members contact her continuously giving her their thoughts as to what can be done legislatively to carry our state and to make it a safer place for those individuals that serve us on the roadways and in the air and everyone that we have a presence for public safety concerns. Representative Purcell stated she is pleased to be here to serve with the new DPS Commissioner as he has had a lot more experience that she has, but will be right on his shirrtail so that she can have that experience too. Representative Purcell stressed that she appreciated the opportunity to come before the Board and let the members know who she is, where she is on the mission and reiterated that she is with the Board on the mission statement as we go through here in the state of Georgia. Representative Purcell stated she lived in Effingham County near Savannah and the coast but that she serves the state of Georgia as the elected official and appointee in regards to serving as the House Chairman for Public Safety and Homeland Security. Representative Purcell thanked the Board for letting her come over and say hello to everyone and know that she is a public servant, the Board members are public servants and her doors are always open to each and every one of those present.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the December minutes. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion to accept, which was seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the Board members.

### **DIRECT REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety began his report by bringing several operational issues to the attention of the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough introduced Mrs. Allison Hodge who will serve as his Executive Assistant and added that Mrs. Hodge has been with the DPS for over 30 years.

Commissioner McDonough told the Board members that this past New Year's Eve in the late afternoon a very severe traffic crash occurred in Atlanta involving a trooper and a family. Immediately upon Commissioner McDonough's notification of the crash, he asked Internal Affairs to contact the GBI and the Fulton County DA's office to assist in the investigation. Commissioner McDonough thanked Director Keenan for the GBI's assistance. After the results and the findings of the initial investigation, Commissioner McDonough advised that he dismissed TFC Crozier from the DPS and as a follow-up, Commissioner McDonough instructed the Training Department to put together a training course for a Due Regard Refresher. Commissioner McDonough advised that the instructors will meet

in Forsyth next date and that instruction will be given to all of the troopers as a refresher by the first of February and then the other sworn members of the Department; M CCD and Capitol Police will receive this refresher training by the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. Commissioner McDonough stated this is an incident that challenges every aspect of the Department and as a sworn officer the issue here is the basic issue of due regard in the operation of an emergency vehicle, whether it is a firefighter driving a fire truck, an ambulance driver, whether it is a police officer or sheriff's deputy or trooper, this is one of the basic things that is trained and in this instance we are required to call balls and strikes and that ball was way outside, so this is the reason that Commissioner McDonough has taken this action. Commissioner McDonough advised the Board members that this is a very sensitive nature and will be happy to entertain any questions from the Board but also will reserve the right to comment on certain things as this is an ongoing investigation.

Chief Dekmar spoke about the Florida Highway Patrol and their policy modifications relating to pursuits that has substantially reduced their number of pursuits being the pursuits are a high risk task and asked Commissioner McDonough if the DPS has had the opportunity to review the Florida Highway Patrol policy changes and maybe incorporate that in this review as kind of a general overview in emergency vehicle operations. Commissioner McDonough advised that Chief Dekmar's comment was appropriate because that is the direction that a lot comments have gone, that this is an issue related to pursuits. Commissioner McDonough told Chief Dekmar that he agreed with him and stated he had not reviewed what Florida Highway Patrol has done but will do so. Commissioner McDonough stated that he sees this as an issue as a basic emergency vehicle issue and not a pursuit issue. The trooper was not engaged in a pursuit but was responding to a trooper who was in a pursuit and it really came down to the basic operations and will deal with the due regard issue first and then will review the Florida Highway Patrol policy modifications.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III commented that when there is a situation on an interstate system or state highway where the GSP is the primary investigative unit, a lot of times when the road is block or people are entrapped, the trooper is running at high rates of speed down through intersections, Mr. Bowen told Commissioner McDonough that he is on the right path and he always goes back to something Captain Soffie Thigpen always said is that a trooper has got to be able to drive there, can't do anything unless the trooper knows how to drive there and commended Commissioner McDonough for doing the Due Regard Refresher as Mr. Bowen does not see this as a pursuit issue, he sees this as just going up to an intersection and not managing or manipulating that intersection and agrees that everyone needs to refreshed on this. Commissioner McDonough added that he thinks that Chief Dekmar's point is very well taken but it comes to the overall decision making whether it is a response to a pursuit, a response to an armed robbery, a response to an accident, it ends up dovetailing into all of these issues so both points were well taken by Commissioner McDonough.

Commissioner McDonough spoke about another operational issue that the Board members might be familiar with and that is what has become referred to as the people of the ledge. Commissioner McDonough stated there has been a situation over the past couple of months where the homeless people have turned the Capitol Plaza area into an encampment. For the past couple of months. Commissioner McDonough stated that the DPS has worked with the GA Building Authority, the

Atlanta Police Department, the City of Atlanta, the Atlanta Ambassadors' and United Way and all came to a culmination yesterday morning at 5:00 am after the United Way went over to the Capitol Plaza and did a survey of those people that were there and were able to place over half of them in services that met their needs, predominately shelter. The tactic was to try and provide as many services as we could to those in need and then to move in an enforcement action, clean up the area and return the Capitol Plaza into the space that it needs to be. The Capitol Plaza is a space that is designed for one to read a book, have lunch, sit and talk, not a space that is designed for people to camp. The facilities are not there for camping and it became a public health issue and so with this cooperation, Commissioner McDonough stated that over a period of time we were able to show compassion and restore the space to the way it should be. By taking the hill, the Capitol Police is charged with maintaining that area so that this does not become a reoccurring problem. Commissioner McDonough stated this was accomplished by using one of our core beliefs and that is compassion and thinks we have been successful with this. Mr. Wayne Abernathy applauded Commissioner McDonough for taking the necessary action.

Commissioner McDonough stated he had two changes that he would like to be made to the DPS organizational structure, one with an existing unit and one with an additional unit. Commissioner McDonough stated the first was Post 49-Motorcycle Unit which is already operating under the org code of GAGSP4900 which is the corresponding number to how DPS does the post structure in the org codes. Commissioner McDonough added this was never presented to the BPS and would like to make it official as a post structure under Troop C. The second one is the creation of GSP Post -50 under the Capitol Police Division. GSP Post-50 will be designed specifically to enhance the security in and around the Capitol property. Commissioner McDonough added that a few years ago there was a study completed on Capitol Security and it was recommended that certified police officers provide security. Commissioner McDonough stated there was a carjacking in the last couple of weeks that occurred right on the periphery which is an indication that this is the direction that DPS needs to go. Commissioner McDonough added that there is initial funding through the GBA, ten positions in the existing trooper school are funded through these funds and will be given additional funding through the GBA for 12 additional slots. Commissioner McDonough stated this will be a new post that will house 22 troopers who specifically will be there to guard the Capitol and provide security.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III asked Commissioner McDonough where the Post-50 troopers would be housed and Commissioner McDonough responded the troopers will be housed under the Capitol Plaza, a student teaching center in the Courtyard behind the Presbyterian Church and an underground parking lot which we are looking at with the GBA to house and for the parking; the same area where the homeless issue is a problem.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Commissioner McDonough what would happen with the existing Capitol Police and Commissioner McDonough replied the Capitol Police structure will remain the same, the area of their jurisdiction is essentially a five mile radius from the Capitol that includes GBA Buildings; so that structure will be maintained and the personnel will be used more on the periphery than around the Capitol. The troopers' main task will be security in and around the Capitol property.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve the establishment of GSP Post 49-Motorcycle Unit and the creation of GSP-Post 50, assigned to Capitol Police. This was seconded by Mr. Kacy Cronan and voted approved by the Board members.

Commissioner McDonough advised since the Aviation Unit came back to DPS, one of the things that DPS specifically stated is that we would use our asset forfeiture funds to both support and provide new equipment for the Aviation Unit. Colonel McDonough added that the Aviation Unit just took possession of a brand new Bell 407 helicopter which will replace an existing helicopter, DPS used one million dollars of asset forfeiture along with 1.8 million dollars in bond funding for this purchase, and are following the recommendation of the Commission for New Georgia in the consolidation and the standardization of the aircraft. This will be an ongoing issue that will be occurring during the budget process over the next couple of years. In addition to this, Commissioner McDonough advised there is a proposal that Mr. Lee O'Brien will bring before the BPS concerning Augusta-Richmond County who has stepped forward and in writing has made a proposal by policy to build DPS a new hangar at Bush Field in Augusta, which will replace the Thomson-McDuffie hangar. Commissioner McDonough stated this is a \$600,000 proposal by this local government, and puts the assets right in the middle of the largest population center of the area that GSP services. Commissioner McDonough added that one of the assets that DPS will be able to provide is the rescue asset and will work with Bush Field in what is known as their Search and Rescue in their Radar Service Area. Commissioner McDonough stated this is a good move and puts us where the majority of our existing calls are for that aviation asset.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III commented that Governor Deal mentioned in his state of the state address the privatization of the air assets in Georgia and asked Commissioner McDonough if DPS was exempt from the privatization that Governor Deal spoke about. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members when the public safety assets were removed from the GA Aviation Authority, that had nothing to do with privatization, we are not privatizing public aircraft or public fire trucks, we are taking those assets and this was the first move last year and then the GAA Board is moving forward with recommendations for the privatization of the hours that are used for transportation of people. This is not a public safety move on that part, specific just to the transportation of people.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced his brother, Mr. Scott Wood, the City Manager of Canton, GA.

Director Vernon Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his report by updating the Board members on some positive notes about previous issues. Director Keenan stated that previously there had been discussions related to synthetic drugs in Georgia, the spice, the K2 problems and the synthetic marijuana. Director Keenan stated he met with the Governor's public safety advisor laying out these problems and now the Governor has authorized the GBI to go forward with legislation which will address the synthetic drug problem and the GBI is in the processing of have this legislation drafted. The issue is simply that previously the legislature has passed laws which addressed specific synthetic drugs for instance spice, the way that the illegal companies operate is if a specific substance has been outlawed, they turn around and make one molecular change in the compound and then therefore the substance then becomes legal again, we cannot enforce the law. Director Keenan added that the GBI is working with the state crime lab scientists and the Drug Enforcement Administration,

we do know what they are doing and our latest legislation will go after a combination of compounds which will greatly benefit us in being able to enforce the laws, where we are not tied to a specific substance. We will be working this issue with Governor Deal's office and the legislature to address something that law enforcement can now go forward with and enforce the law. Director Keenan reminded the Board members that when the BPS met at Ft. Stewart, the base commander had pointed out that his number one drug problem on the base was the synthetic drugs, the spice and K2.

Director Keenan stated that Governor Deal has also authorized the GBI to go forward with legislation that will help law enforcement combat the area of the sovereign citizens. Director Keenan stated he uses this term loosely because sovereign citizens, many of them are just criminals who attach that name to themselves to try to give some legitimacy to illegal conduct. Director Keenan stated there had been instances across the state of Georgia where individuals claiming to be sovereign citizens go forward and attach a lien to one's personal property. This has occurred with judges and the speaker of the house also had a lien attached to him and the US Dept of Justice classifies this group of people as white collar terrorists because that is what they do. Director Keenan explained that anyone in this room or himself could walk into the clerk of the court in any county where one resides and put a fraudulent bogus lien on the property and then it is up to you to get this all straightened out. Director Keenan stated the GBI will be working to mirror some federal legislation which addresses this; it makes it blatantly illegal to attach a fraudulent lien to an official's property. Director Keenan stated that the federal government law only looked after federal judges and law enforcement and left out the prosecutors and everyone else that is a public official and that will not be the case in the GBI legislation. Chief Lou Dekmar stated the sovereign citizens has been a phenomenal that has been going on out west for decades, with the Posse Comitatus and those guys and asked Director Keenan if they have similar legislation that has been proven effective. Director Keenan advised yes and the GBI is looking at other states' legislation as the FBI considers the sovereign citizens movement to be the greatest threat against American law enforcement because of the violence that some of these individuals have directed against law enforcement officers. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III commented that in his court concerning vehicle stops, they present that they are sovereign citizens and are immune from any laws throughout this state or any state and are usually from the Republic of Florida. Director Keenan stated the sovereign citizens take one step forward and if they are not challenged by law enforcement then they take another step, another step which builds up to the violence category. With this legislation, GBI intends to take a no nonsense approach of someone who files fraudulent liens against a government official will be put in jail. Sheriff Steve Cronic stated last month there was an eviction issue that was really dangerous and last week Sheriff Cronic received two very lethal looking notices that if you do not respond and with this coming about in a few weeks, Sheriff Cronic asked Director Keenan if there is a database where these names can be entered and tracked. Director Keenan told Sheriff Cronic that he can provide that information to the GBI and the GBI is tied directly into the FBI which monitors this not only in Georgia but across the United States. Director Keenan stated that the FBI has taken the lead on this because of the national implications, but the FBI has agents that are assigned full time to deal with the sovereign citizens' issues in Georgia and the GBI coordinates and cooperates with the FBI. Director Keenan stated when the GBI attempts to make an arrest of a sovereign citizen; they take a SWAT team as it can be a very dangerous situation.

Director Keenan stated in the governor's proposed budget, Governor Deal has addressed the number one priority that GBI has and that is the funding of 27 crime lab scientists who are on federal grants and if we do not receive the funding for these crime lab scientists, there will be 27 scientists that would be out of employment in another year. In the governor's budget, he has moved funding around so that money is proposed to go to the crime lab to take care of this issue. This was the GBI's absolute priority and has been approved. The governor also recommended some bond packages for the GBI; one is funding to complete the radio system which will be necessary for the GBI to be compliant with the new changes in the frequency legislation that is coming up and also to provide \$695,000.00 for crime scene equipment that is necessary for us to stay within the state of the art. All of this is very positive.

Director Keenan added that the governor has also recommended in his budget to the legislature that the Sex Offender Review Board which is currently administratively attached to Behavioral Health become a division and moved to the GBI and the reason why this is necessary is that the Sex Offender Review Board which is charged by law with classifying sex offenders in identifying those which will be given the designation of sexual predators. Director Keenan added that the Sex Offender Review Board is not part of a law enforcement agency; they are not able by federal law to have access to the law enforcement records which they need to do their job. The state has been in turmoil of an agency that is trying to do their job, but they do not have the resources because they are not law enforcement and the governor has recommended that they become part of the GBI and this will solve this problem, they will then have access to criminal history records and investigative files and everything else that they need to do their job. We are working with the governor's office and the Attorney General's office and other people to have the law written so that it addresses these major issues.

Director Keenan asked Ms. Terry Gibbons, Deputy Director of the GCIC to come and update the members in regard to an encryption refresh project. Director Keenan stated that the GBI is the portal for all law enforcement agencies, all courts and all prosecutors to access the criminal history record system in the state of Georgia, but the GBI does not have absolute authority over how this system operates because we are tied into the national network with the FBI which is in a position to mandate to all 50 states, standards that each state has to operate under. These standards impact not only the GBI but impact local and state law enforcement agencies. Director Keenan added there will be some additional costs for some local law enforcement agencies. Director Keenan stated many times the GBI is blamed for actions that when in fact the GBI is not the authority that is mandating the actions, it is the FBI.

Sheriff Cronic shared his appreciation to Director Keenan in regards to the North Georgia Major Offender Task Force which includes officers from Hall County SO, Cherokee County SO, Forsyth County SO, and Gainesville PD and has been very effective as they deal with a lot immigration issues and even the Mexican Drug Cartel and thanked Director Keenan for the GBI representation along with the FBI on the unit and thinks that this will enhance the unit greatly and knows how difficult it is with resources being what they are. Director Keenan responded this is a great program and the GBI is glad to participate in great programs.

Before moving on to the encryption refresh project, Chief Dekmar asked Director Keenan if the GBI was still having an issue with the turnover in the Crime Lab and Director Keenan replied that is still a problem. Chief Dekmar noted that in the November report, the highest in terms of un-worked cases in forensic biology and latent fingerprints, questioned documents/photography and trace evidence for the last half of the calendar and asked Director Keenan if this is the direct result of the turnovers. Director Keenan replied that everything as far backlogs generally goes directly to the turnover rate and reminded the BPS that when a scientist leaves, GBI immediately fills the position but then they have to go through the training part of it which is a lengthy process. Director Keenan stated that the pay raise for scientists and agents are a priority for us, but priority one is to have the federal positions funded.

Chief Dekmar shared with the BPS that there was a barricaded gunman yesterday in the City of LaGrange for about 12 hours and requested both of the GBI robots to keep from breaching entry with the LaGrange PD officers and the GBI did a fantastic job, were able to knock a hole in the door so that a dog could be sent and thanked Director Keenan and his personnel for their responsiveness and professionalism.

Ms. Terry Gibbons, GBI Deputy Director for the Georgia Crime Information Center presented a brief overview of the AT&T Encryption Refresh Project. Ms. Gibbons introduced Ms. Marsha O'Neal, the Assistant Deputy Director for NCIC Services, who manages the GBI support on this project and if there are any detail questions or if any of the law enforcement agencies have any questions her contact information is in the handout.

Ms. Gibbons told the BPS members that the FBI requires encryption as any exchange of criminal justice data must be encrypted which has been in place since 2006. Ms. Gibbons stated that the AT&T's Encryption Refresh Project will impact an agency because the agency either connects to the GCIC's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) network via a connection other than the state's secure portal or the agency has a connection to the state's Automated Fingerprint Identification Network (AFIS) as an AFIS Remote or Live Scan use. Ms. Gibbons stated that the majority of agencies are connected to the State's Secure Portal Website and encryption is handled through the GTA and the agency pays \$2.46 per user per month for that private secure terminal which has been this way since 2006 and the current encryption refresh project will not affect these agencies. For the 250 agencies in the state that connect by using a "metro header" will be impacted. They either have a vendor because they have multiple terminals and it is cheaper for them to pay a vendor than pay \$2.46 per user per month or they have mobile data terminals in which case coming through the secure portal from the wireless is not the best option for them right now. Some agencies may have a vendor because they like the bells and whistles that the vendor provides that the GBI portal does not provide. These agencies have a vendor and they either connect through AT&T already or they come through an internet service provider. The way the agency comes through now whether they come through AT&T or an internet service provider, there is a firewall encryption box. In 2006 when the FBI said the agencies had to be encrypted, GTA came up with the solution by putting a firewall encryption box in front of the GBI CJIS network and that would be the encryption and has been in place since 2006. The GBI purchased 250 boxes with a grant back in 2006 and has been paying for the boxes monthly since that time. In 2009 with the state outsourcing IT, AT&T is now going to assume responsibility for the

encryption formerly provided by IBM. AT&T's encryption solution is a router and for those 180 of the 250 agencies that are already with AT&T will basically see no change in the cost. AT&T stated it would cost the agencies \$341.60/month for the router that also encompasses the encryption. If an agency is already paying AT&T for a router, the router will be replaced to add the encryption portion and there should be no additional costs for the agencies from the old AT&T router to the new AT&T router. For other local agencies that use a vendor and connect to the GBI through an internet service provider there will be a substantial cost because all these agencies are probably paying is the internet service provider costs whatever that might be. They are not paying for the encryption box because GBI purchased them in 2006. These boxes are going to go away and the AT&T router will be put in place and will cost \$341.60/month. These agencies will go from basically paying nothing for the encryption to having to pay \$341.60/month plus whatever they pay to the internet service provider for their connectivity. Ms. Gibbons added that letters have been sent to the agency head of the agency and the TAC at the agency that will be affected. The project was started in October and has already converted 12 agencies; the project will take about a year and should be completed by this time next year. For those agencies that are internet service provider agencies this will be a bigger fiscal impact and GBI is rolling them into the last half of the project to keep them from being impacted until the late summer or fall, more time to plan and budget for the changes. We are contacting agencies as we identify the ones that are going to switch each month, calling them up front with AT&T, talking with them to understand what they already have and give them the options if they want to look at different connectively solutions. Ms. Gibbons added that some agencies are able to share routers and if they want to consolidate this may be a way to look for savings and cost, but we are talking with the agency individually before we go through the encryption refresh project.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center welcomed the new BPS members coming on board, he congratulated them and offered his assistance at the GPSTC and looks forward to having the members at the GPSTC to show them exactly what the Training Center does and talk about the future goals at the GPSTC.

Director Bearden stated he had the distinct pleasure of working with Representative Ann Purcell over the last several years and Speaker Ralston could not have picked a better person that loves public safety across this state. Director Bearden added that Representative Purcell will work tirelessly to make sure public safety agencies are taken care of.

Director Bearden thanked all the BPS members that attended the Governor's Public Safety Awards in December. Director Bearden stated it was a nice event and a great turnout and thanked the BPS members for their support.

Director Bearden advised that December is one of the slowest months for the GPSTC, as the classes are winding down and then getting prepared for January. Director Bearden stated that on Monday, all the regional academies will have basic law enforcement academies going and Forsyth will be kicking off two basic law enforcement academies at the same time.

Director Bearden stated that tomorrow the GPSTC will be hosting a delegation from China to see how the GPSTC sets things up and GEMA has been working with the GPSTC to get props and demonstrations set up to show the China delegation exactly what we do at GPSTC.

Director Bearden stated on February 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, GPSTC is looking forward to hosting a Human Trafficking Class set up by the GBI that will host a lot of law enforcement, Attorney Generals, GBI and FBI.

Chief Lou Dekmar asked Director Bearden if he had received the white paper that the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association recently completed on the state of training for Georgia. Director Bearden advised he had not received a copy and Chief Dekmar asked Director Bearden to reach out to GACP and obtain a copy, as he might find it helpful assessing the needs for training in Georgia.

### **DONATIONS**

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

(1) Drug Canine-Black Lab	\$ 2,500.00	Darien Police Department
(1) Kustom ProLaser 4	\$ 3,515.00	GOHS
Fuel-350 gallons	\$ 1,200.00	Jenkins County SO
Canine Handler Training Classes	\$ 5,500.00	Dooly County SO
(1) Canine-Belgium Malinois	\$ 500.00	TFC J. L. Swain
(7) Truspeed LIDAR units	\$ 9,065.00	GOHS-Piedmont Area TEN

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III commented that he felt the BPS members should be more prudent in certain circumstances on donations as there was an instance where a police chief donated fuel to the DPS supposedly without the knowledge of the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Bowen asked that the Board be careful that everyone is aware of when somebody does something especially with city government. Commissioner McDonough stated that correction has already been made as the DPS reached out to the city that if that donation was not going to be supported by them, we would have returned the donation.

The motion for these donations was made by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III; seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Lisa Ulrich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation requested approval of the following donations:

(3) Monocular Night Vision Devices (MNVD) Generation 3, Model F6015	\$10,500.00	ITT Exelis-Frank Loftus
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The motion for this donation was made by Mr. C. Murray Kight; seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety came before the BPS members with a Resolution asking the BPS to authorize the Department of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with the Augusta-Richmond County Commission and to enter into all agreements, including deeds, property interest transfers and lease agreements with Augusta-Richmond County Commission for the purpose of providing for aviation operations and the use of an aircraft hangar at Bush Field by the Aviation Division of the Georgia State Patrol.

Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion for the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to negotiate and enter into such memoranda of understanding, contracts and leases with the Augusta-Richmond County Commission for the use of property for the erection of a hangar facility by the Department of Public Safety for use by Georgia State Patrol and its Aviation Division at Bush Field in Augusta, Richmond County. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. O'Brien what would become of the Thomson hangar and Mr. O'Brien advised that it would revert back to the City of Thomson.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Vice-Chairman Wood congratulated Mr. Joe Hood of the DPS and Director Vernon Keenan of the GBI who have been active in the CJCC for a number of years; Joe Hood was named Vice-Chairman and Director Keenan was appointed to the CJCC Board.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised that Commissioner Owens, Sheriff Talton and Mr. Danny Bryant were absent this meeting due to the funeral of Long County Sheriff Cecil Nobles this morning and asked all those to remember Sheriff Nobles' family as some of his family members work for the departments represented here today.

Vice-Chairman Wood encouraged the BPS members to thank Commissioner Owens for allowing the BPS to use the DOC Board room and thanked Ms. Vonnie Stewart for her assistance in setting up the room for the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to please keep Mr. Wayne Abernathy in their thoughts and prayers as he has a medical procedure scheduled next month.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the Board members that the By-Laws of the Board of Public Safety states that the Board will elect two officers at the January meeting or as soon as possible thereafter and on advice of Council, we feel that we should defer the elections to the February meeting due to the number of new Board members that are coming on and will need a motion to defer the election of the two officers.

Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion to defer the election of officers to the February BPS meeting; this motion was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar and voted approval by all Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated the BPS will meet in the Atlanta area for the February and March meetings and the April meeting will be held jointly with the DOC Board and the Pardons and Parole Board in Glennville and the meeting date will be our same date.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy congratulated Governor Deal on the State of the State address, stating he had listened to a lot of State of State addresses, but thinks this is the most positive address he has ever heard and Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. Bart Gobeil to please relay that message to Governor Deal.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Secretary