

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**June 21, 2006**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Chief Lou Dekmar  
Sheriff Bruce Harris  
Mr. Patrick Head  
Chief Dwayne Orrick  
Chief J. D. Rice  
Mr. Cullen Talton

Vice-Chairman James Donald (via telephone)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Board Attorney  
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison  
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety  
Major Don Chastain, Georgia State Patrol  
Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety  
Major Billy Boulware, Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
Chief Mark McLeod, Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Monica Mahone, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Ms. Terry Gibbons, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Crime Lab  
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Bud Black  
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Mr. Dub Harper  
Sheriff Jamil Saba

Mr. Wayne Abernathy called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone to the June Board meeting. Mr. Abernathy announced there was not a quorum at this meeting, but that Vice-Chairman Donald will be connected by telephone for voting issues.

**DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with reporting that the Training Center has been working on the Dean Forest Road site in Savannah; however, now this project has become more involved. When State Patrol had a post there, they had a sewage

permit to allow the sewage into a tank, add chlorine to the water, and pump it off into a drainage canal. The Environmental Protection Division does not want to do this anymore; therefore, an engineer was brought in to do a study on this issue. This property has only about 20 inches of sand, with white clay-like substance underneath, meaning poor drainage. To repair this, the Training Center will have to dig out that clay substance and replace it with sand to create drainage; at the cost of almost \$100,000. Director Mann stated he spoke with Ms. Jill Stuckey of EPD and she indicated that she will visit Savannah to see if there is another option. Director Mann pointed out that rebuilding the old patrol post building will not start until the sewage issue has been resolved. In response to a question of connecting to local sewage lines, Director Mann stated there are no city or county sewage lines available in that area. Director Mann stated the Training Center has put this project on hold.

As good news, Director Mann reported that staff is moving into the facility in Dalton, and, that it will be operational on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The phone system has been installed; the utilities have been switched over; the data circuits are being put in; and furniture has been ordered and should be delivered to the building very soon. The next class starts on July 10<sup>th</sup>; so, the Training Center is right on target with this project.

Director Mann reported that the Advisory Board will meet concerning the Dublin facility. After the decision from the meeting, Director Mann will notify the State Properties Commission of the vote. He indicated that he will continue looking for a home for the middle Georgia academy.

Director Mann announced he has hired Ms. Vonnie Stewart to be his new administrative assistant, and she will start July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, reported that things are underway to operate the Motorcycle Unit. People have been selected; equipment has been ordered; and basic training has been provided. He noted that advanced training has been offered by North Carolina and California Highway Patrol.

Colonel Hitchens reported on the recent immigration legislation. The law requires State Patrol to be engaged with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Department of Public Safety/State Patrol is not in the immigration business as such; the intent is for the Department to deal with the criminal element in the communities. The federal government is going to fund the front end with State Patrol assigning the Interdiction Unit. Colonel Hitchens stated this is not a new program; the Alabama Highway Patrol has been doing this for the last two years. Georgia State Patrol will be involved in the same focus. There are certain areas in the state where in the Hispanic communities there is a criminal element involved in drugs, in white slavery, and other areas. State Patrol folks will be trained primarily in identification. In response to a question of bilingual training for troopers, Colonel Hitchens stated State Patrol has six or seven people who

speak fluently; also, those who work in Hispanic areas are sent to school to get the basics so they can communicate using basic phrases and sentences.

Colonel Hitchens announced that State Patrol has signed the contract with Glock; delivery is expected in September.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy mentioned that the Chairman of Banks County Commissioners called to express his appreciation to State Patrol for the way they patrol the area. Mr. Abernathy stated the folks in Banks County are deeply gratified for the efforts by the troopers.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, reported that at the last session of the General Assembly, two particular pieces of legislation were passed. One being "Mattie's Call" and one called "Kimberly's Call." Mattie's Call legislation directs GEMA, but meaning to indicate GBI, to set up a system whereby law enforcement will send out an alert when a person, who is mentally or physically disabled, has wandered off or disappeared. This is a situation of an Alzheimer patient walking off from a facility, then an alert system is established to notify the public and law enforcement so recovery can be made. Kimberly's Call addresses situations if there is an imminent threat to the public because of a serial murderer or serial rapist. Both of these programs are based around the success of the Amber Alert system; in Georgia it is called Levi's Call, which has been a phenomenal success. In Georgia, there have been over 30 Levi's Call alerts that have gone out and all have been successfully concluded with the exception of one.

Director Keenan went on to explain issues that have come into play in working with Georgia Broadcasters Association on an alert system. The Broadcasters are very strict in the way they want the program handled. When an alert goes out, it interrupts their programs. Under the Levi's Call, when a child is missing and there is imminent danger to the child, the GBI works with GEMA to have the emergency response alert go out, which interrupts the on-going program in both the television and radio. The Broadcasters have no say-so in the alert, because it is a flip of a switch to interrupt a program or a commercial. Director Keenan stated that the Broadcasters are in agreement to work with Georgia law enforcement in setting up the system, to involve not interrupting an on-going program, but meeting the needs of the law enforcement. In response to a question of how perpetrators are successfully apprehended, Director Keenan stated that the vast majority has been done because of citizens spotting the vehicle or the child and then calling 911. Director Keenan stated that he has committed to the Governor's staff that the GBI will pull a plan together and work with GEMA and the Broadcasters.

Sheriff Bruce Harris added that Paulding County has enrolled in the "Child Is Missing" program. Director Keenan explained that this program is going to be a critical part of Georgia's alert system. The Child Is Missing program, which has been brought to Georgia by the Sheriffs Association, is designed that when a child disappears, the information is submitted to the

program. Then a recorded message relating to the disappearance is sent to every telephone within the geographic area of the disappearance.

With the next part of his report, Director Keenan called on Deputy Director Dan Kirk of the State Crime Lab. The GBI Command Staff sat in a meeting with Governor's staff to address Performance Measures that will be used in upcoming budget process for GBI. One item that was addressed was the current status of the State Crime Laboratory.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Deputy Director of Georgia Crime Lab, stood before the Board members to bring a status of the Crime Lab. With a handout, Mr. Kirk began with talking about the backlog reduction, the outsourcing project, where the Crime Lab is on the cases today, and projections for the upcoming year. Mr. Kirk began with pointing out page 1 shows a chart reflecting that the backlog count was just over 31,000 cases in July of 2005. In May of 2006, the backlog was down to 5,173 cases, which is an 83.5% reduction. In continuing with the handout, page 4 is a Backlog Comparison, showing the percentage comparison of the sections in the Crime Lab. Such as Toxicology making a tremendous headway in reducing the backlog. The Forensic Biology section has not made a huge difference in the backlog but that is because of losing major players; the Crime Lab is in the process of filling those four slots and getting them trained. With other sections, such as analyzing drugs, the turnaround should be immediate. The Crime Lab is looking at what can be done to better serve customers. On page 2 of the handout, a pie chart reflects the Contributions to Backlog Reduction. The percentage for DOFS Analysis is at 21%, reflecting that which is being done in-house; Outsourced Analysis is 24%; and the big area shows Pending APD Services at 55%.

Mr. Kirk asked the Board members to look at the last page of the handout, which described Outsourced Services FY 2006. Mr. Kirk stated a tremendous amount of energy has been put into this effort by the Crime Lab staff to make this work and this project has been a success. The breakdown of the cases shows there about 2500 Serology cases, those being sexual assault kits. There are about 2600 Chemistry cases; 744 DNA cases; and about 15400 Toxicology cases, those being post mortem cases. With charts on pages 14, 15 and 16, Mr. Kirk went on to describe the comparison of time saved in the Crime Lab working Serology cases, Toxicology cases, and Drug ID cases. What is actually saved is the actual analysis time itself. Staff still looks at evidence, receiving and describing and photographing the case, which is done whether it is outsourced or not. Page 3 of the handout showed DOFS Workload 2006, an overview that over 82,000 services have been requested. Pages 6 through 13 show productivity for the upcoming year, in Toxicology, Chemistry and other sections in the Crime Lab. The values for May 2006 to June 2007 are projected based upon expected staffing levels in each discipline. Mr. Kirk responded to questions and completed his report.

Noting that Ms. Terry Gibbons, with Georgia Crime Information Center, had attended this meeting, Chief Lou Dekmar requested her assistance. Chief Dekmar questioned in that in many instances, information is taken from a criminal history and is used as a part of corroboration for probable cause for search warrant and such. He is conflicted as to what his agency is to do or not

do in referencing criminal histories in investigative reports. Ms. Gibbons stated she would research this question and respond to him at a later date.

**VOTING ISSUES:**

At this point in the meeting, Vice-Chairman Donald was brought into the meeting for voting issues.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy requested a motion to approve the May Board Minutes, which was given by Sheriff Cullen Talton, seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

**RULES:**

Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of a new chapter of administrative regulations for initial adoption. This Rule deals with the retention of the weapon and badge for sworn members, and the retention of badge for radio operators when leaving the Department under certain circumstances. As she explained, Senate Bill 520 was passed by the General Assembly, wherein it amended the Georgia Code, which allows the Department to provide those items when someone leaves the Department under honorable conditions. In addition, it changed the service requirement from 25 years to 15 years; and made clear that when someone leaves as a result of a disability that arose in the line of duty, they are entitled to retain those items regardless of the number of years of service. Ms. Rodgers explained there are three parts to the Rule, the first being Definitions, which defines Disability as arising in the line of duty and it defines what leaving the Department under honorable conditions would include. The remainder of the Rule is administrative and it provides for the process if someone does want to retain those items. It also provides what circumstances a sworn member would be ineligible. After the initial adoption, a public hearing will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rodgers requested adoption of the Rule, which was motioned by Chief Dwayne Orrick, seconded by Chief J. D. Rice, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

**DONATIONS:**

Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

One Gas Grill

\$ 1,400.00

Statesboro Kiwanis Club

Minutes of Board of Public Safety

June 21, 2006

Page 6

Tint Meter Enforcer Model TM 100	\$ 125.00	Sheriff Tim Fields Jenkins County Sheriff
One Kustom Signals INC. Intoximeters, Inc. Alco-Sensor	\$ 3,595.00 \$ 450.00	Governor's Office of Highway Safety
One 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package Vehicle	\$29,000.00	Sheriff Donny Turner Troup County Sheriff
Two Decatur Genesis II Select Radars	\$ 3,200.00	Sheriff Tommy Corbin Treutlen County Sheriff
One Decatur Genesis III Select Radar	\$ 1,600.00	Sheriff Gary Hudgins Jefferson County Sheriff
Emergency Lighting Equipment K-9 Equipment	\$ 4,000.00	Chief T. Esco Braselton Police Department
Custom Golden Eagle 11X Radar Unit	\$ 1,678.00	Sheriff Bill Harrell Laurens County Sheriff

Chief J. D. Rice made a motion to approve the donations, which was seconded by Sheriff Cullen Talton, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

Mr. Abernathy thanked Vice-Chairman Donald for participating in voting on issues, and, continued with other issues.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/EMERGENCY ISSUES:**

There being none, Mr. Abernathy continued with the Agenda.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

As discussed in a previous Board meeting, the Board members agreed to hold the August meeting in conjunction with the Georgia Firefighters Association conference. The meeting will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, which is the day the Firefighters Association will hold its Memorial Service. The Board members suggested that an e-mail be sent to the Board members and check to see who would be able to attend the meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III