

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
May 12, 2016  
Plant Vogtle, Waynesboro, Georgia

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Chief Danny Bowman  
Mr. Steve D. Cronic  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Mr. Charles D. Sikes  
Mr. Peter J. Skandalakis  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Danny Bryant  
Commissioner Homer Bryson  
Mr. Kacy Cronan  
Sheriff Dane Kirby

**OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain John Cook, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Rusty Andrews, Deputy Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Ms. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Steven Kirk  
Mrs. Donna Bowman  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mr. Edwin Wynn, Director, Bulloch County EMA  
Chief Augustus Palmer, Waynesboro Police Department  
Chief Deputy Larry Lewis, Burke County Sheriff's Department  
Mr. Philip Peacock, Director of Security, Georgia Power Company  
Mr. Terry Norris, Executive Director, Georgia Sheriffs' Association

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 12, 2016, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Mr. Philip Peacock, Director of Security for the Georgia Power Company welcomed everyone to Plant Vogtle and the Georgia Power Company. Mr. Peacock introduced Plant Vogtle Site Security Manager, Tim Baker, who has been with the company 20 years, with his background being all nuclear, starting out at Plant Farley, nuclear plant to sister company Alabama Power near Dothan Alabama, and has been at Plant Vogtle since 2014, working his way up the ranks to one of the top jobs in nuclear which is managing the security for one of the plants for Southern Company. Mr. Peacock added that Mr. Baker's father and he worked together in the 80s for a long time, retiring from sister company Gulf Power, who was the security director at Gulf Power.

Waynesboro Police Chief Augustus Palmer gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to stand and introduce their self.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes. Chief Craig Tully made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety gave an update on the 98<sup>th</sup> Trooper School, which started on April 3 with 50 cadets and are currently down to 27 cadets. Lt. Colonel Powell advised 2 cadets were lost to firearms, 6 to driving and the other 15 left in some fashion, most of them self-dismissing. Over the past several years, Lt. Colonel Powell advised the trooper schools are losing about 48% of what was started. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the 98<sup>th</sup> trooper school will graduate November 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 99<sup>th</sup> school will start August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Lt. Colonel Powell shared due to fuel savings this year and savings in personnel costs, DPS will be able to do some things at the end of this year the Department has been working on for a very long time. Lt. Colonel Powell reminded the BPS of the rifle donations, working to get every sworn officer his own rifle and with the fuel and personnel savings at the end of the year, DPS will buy every sworn officer a new LWRC rifle, and purchase every officer a level four plate vest system, a hard ceramic plate that will stop a 308 armor from piercing. Lt. Colonel Powell added the Department will be buying new gas masks and a supply of filters, and have bought a new supply of less lethal munitions, and are able to buy some clothing that is overdue. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the Department has also purchased a good supply of ammunition for coming years, trooper schools, and in-services and are repairing some buildings.

Lt. Colonel Powell advised DPS participated as a support agency at Stone Mountain on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Rock Stone Mountain event. Lt. Colonel Powell added the Klu Klux Klan planned the rally and became Rock Stone Mountain as groups lined up to protest, with KKK, Bastards Motorcycle Club of SC, the Confederates of Michigan, All Out Atlanta, Black Lives Matter and a few more groups were

present. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the groups would not fall where one would think they would fall, it was a protest of the Klan being on the property. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the Stone Mountain Police Department asked DPS, GBI, and DOC to provide support on an event that had a lot potential to get out of hand, the park stayed open which meant there were members of the public in the park. Lt. Colonel Powell stated DPS and DOC provided two Mobile Field Forces, and utilized the mobile field forces during most of the day. Lt. Colonel Powell added the DNR participated and escorted people up and down the mountain, GBI provided ID teams and agents with the DPS MFF team and the FBI had a representative on site. Lt. Colonel Powell stated there were some confrontations, 9 arrests were made, but at the end of the day, the response was a success and the Stone Mountain Park Police were very pleased.

Mr. Abernathy asked Lt. Colonel Powell which group gave the most problems at Stone Mountain Park. Lt. Colonel Powell advised it was mixed group, professional protestors not from here that were paid to come here and protest. Lt. Colonel Powell stated Stone Mountain Park Police had a good plan, designating protest areas and protest times. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the Klan complied with the plan and went where they were supposed to go and stayed where they were supposed to stay, did not throw rocks at anyone or set anything on fire. Lt. Colonel Powell noted that everybody else spent the day trying to confront or get to the Klan and law enforcement spent most of the day trying to keep them separated.

Mr. Abernathy asked Lt. Colonel Powell who would foot the bill for DPS at the St. Mountain Park event. Lt. Colonel Powell replied DPS serves as a support agency and when asked to assist, DPS will.

Sheriff Joey Terrell commented they had a group out of Louisiana scheduled to protest at the Habersham County courthouse and members of DPS Mobile Field Force were present and it amounted to nothing, but the GSP is greatly appreciated, when it is needed.

Lt. Colonel Powell stated DPS did use a lot of resources, SWAT was on scene, and at one point when some of the groups went into the woods, and SWAT followed and observed them. Lt. Colonel Powell added there was Aviation support all day, it was all fast moving and learned a lot, and learned real quick that it is hard for those in the Command Post to keep up to the minute for what is really happening out on the line. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the Command Staff was present, but Capt. Mark Hambert was the one in charge and did a great job.

Mr. Peter Skandalakis asked Lt. Colonel Powell how many Klan members and how many total participants were on site. Lt. Colonel Powell responded there were probably 300-400 participants with 15-20 participants for the Klan. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the Klan left a couple of hours early and when the Klan left and there was no need to keep the groups separated, DPS decided they needed to leave and when they did, the other protestors left.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation reminded the BPS members that it is important to remember the state is there in support of the Stone Mountain Police and the reason why law enforcement was there was not to protect the Klan, it was to support and defend the Constitution of

the United States for American citizens to assemble and exercise their constitutional free speech and rights. Director Keenan stated if the DOC and the GSP had not be there with the sufficient forces they had, there would have been a major riot. Director Keenan added it takes a lot of resources, lot of mobility with the field forces to move the officers around to keep two groups separated, as counter protestors come for the purpose of having a fight with the Klan and to generate all of the publicity that comes with this. Director Keenan stated the GSP knocked out the leadership of the anarchists group, because when they came through the front gate wearing their masks, they were told to take the mask off and if they did not, they would be arrested and they were arrested. Director Keenan commented that he had been doing this a long time and there is no way of getting around having a large amount of force that can be moved around to keep the groups separated. Director Keenan stated this was a great success story, some news coverage, but nothing like it would have been if that group had gotten to the Klan, who had their families with them.

Director Keenan advised Governor Deal just recently signed the budget for the State of Georgia with no changes for the GBI, doing very well in this legislative session with the support of Governor Deal. Director Keenan advised the GBI will hire 22 agents this coming year, not all at once, will stagger the hiring, but at the end of the year, GBI will have 22 new agents. Director Keenan declared six of these agents will be stationed in Metro-Atlanta to handle the resources needed to work the use of force cases that are occurring in Metro-Atlanta, the rest will go to field offices, each field office will pick up another agent. Director Keenan stated the GBI also received two Criminal Intelligence Analyst positions, something that Legislature put in that was very much needed, with one of the intelligence analyst devoted to putting together information related to the exploitation and abuse of the elderly and disabled adults and are in the process of putting together information for various social service agencies so the GBI can identify the unlicensed personal care homes where much of the abuse and exploitation is occurring. Director Keenan stated the GBI also received funding to hire five additional toxicologists in the crime lab, which are very much needed. Director Keenan stated they had a great meeting with OPB and will be providing the governor with a formal concept and issues paper to outline the needs in the crime lab, as there is an increase of cases coming into the crime lab, averaging 10% per year of new cases and if this is not adequately addressed with new resources, the lab will be so far behind in a backlog, they will never get out of that hole.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center reminded the BPS of the Annual Public Safety Memorial being held on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1000 hours at the GPSTC.

Director Wigginton advised a new addition to the driving track was approved in this year's budget, one of the biggest demand areas at the GPSTC, currently booked through 2018; and with the addition, it will relieve stress the GPSTC is currently having with the driver training. Director Wigginton stated a survey crew was out at the site this week and on July 1<sup>st</sup> when the money is appropriated, the GPSTC will have equipment out there to move forward on the project.

Director Wigginton advised a group from the Police Academy went to a Jacksonville FL, meeting with large crash investigation units and a lot of engineers from all over the nation and the team that went from GPSTC took the prize. Director Wigginton shared the GPSTC group did a motorcycle

crash test, releasing a couple of motorcycles with mannequins on them crashing into vehicles and validated the formula that GPSTC has been using to do crash investigations for years in front of engineers and scientists that study this type of data consistently. Director Wigginton stated the team showed how the formulas work in a practical setting using real life vehicles and mannequins and dummies and are trying to make a national mark when it comes to crash investigation.

Director Wigginton stated the George Lanier Fire Protection Lab has received numerous amounts of donations to get the lab up and running and should be up and running in the near future.

Director Wigginton advised student enrollment is up 25,000 students at the GPSTC from last year and still have a couple of months to go. Director Wigginton stated GPSTC continues to strive to get the student enrollment up, offering newly created lesson plans and courses, and revitalizing the program.

Director Wigginton reminded the BPS members there are six regional academies with the main campus in Forsyth. Director Wigginton stated a few years ago, a basic mandate academy was at the main campus in Forsyth and then moved 15 miles down the road to a location in Macon, thinking that was the appropriate decision at the time. Director Wigginton stated looking at it from his position and a budgetary standpoint, he does understand why this move was made. Director Wigginton stated to save important dollars and to bring the academy back to the main campus on July 1, 2016, he asked the BPS members for their consideration and vote. Director Wigginton stated currently at the regional academies, the local law enforcement departments' officers have to commute or they have to put them in a hotel creating additional expenses for that agency. Director Wigginton stated if the officer has the training at GPSTC, the officer can stay for free in the dormitories and reduce some of the cost on the agencies. Director Wigginton stated after running the numbers on the Bibb Academy, the GPSTC would never exceed maximum capacity at the dormitories and in the event this happened, the number would be so small that those that would have to be put in a hotel would not exceed what is currently extended for the lease agreement at the Bibb Co. Academy. Director Wigginton added that it fiscally makes sense and would be good to see the young cadets around the academy every day.

Mr. Peter Skandalakis made the motion to relocate the campus in Bibb County back to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center main campus in Forsyth, on July 1, 2016. This was seconded by Chief Mark Renew and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Lester Rampy asked Director Wigginton what are the plans for the driving track. Director Wigginton stated the training center is building a new skid pad, new cone course and new threshold braking exercise, the three areas required by POST to have basic certification. Director Wigginton add a little more asphalt will be poured in the cone course for a skills building course which is not required at this time, just exposure to more driving. Director Wigginton added the big track will stay the same. Director Wigginton stated that 80% or more of public safety personnel that come through the basic driving course never take another driving course in their career and noted that most workman's comp and insurance claims are vehicle related when it comes to public safety.

**DONATIONS**

Major Jason Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Eleven LWRCI M6-G Carbine Patrol Rifles	\$	19,659.64	Habersham Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,111.50	Trenton Police Department
Fourteen E-seek M260 Driver's License Scanners	\$	7,802.00	Perry Police Department
Eight Model X26P Tasers	\$	7,634.28	Whitfield Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,061.00	Elbert Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,074.50	Hart Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Three Model X26P Tasers	\$	3,310.83	Nashville Police Dept.
Four Model X26P Tasers	\$	4,414.44	Cook Co. Board of Commissioners
Ten E-seek M260 Driver's License Scanners	\$	5,450.00	Dooly Co. Sheriff's Dept.

**WITHDRAWAL OF DONATION**

One Reaper System License Plate Reader	\$	9,800.00	Locust Grove Police Department
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The motion to accept these donations and withdrawal was made by Chief Danny Bowman, which was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donations:

Three Sprinkler Valves	\$	2,000.00	Repco Sales
Fabricated Piping	\$	3,600.00	Atlanta WinSupply, Inc.
Ten Dry Erase Boards	\$	1,300.00	GAFSED
Six 2007 Ford Crown Vics.	\$	3,000.00	Hall Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Kiddie CO2 System	\$	13,497.00	Fire Systems, Inc.



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