

**BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**October 4, 2012**

**Forsyth, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Tommy M. Rouse, Chairman  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Mr. Carl Franklin  
Mr. Bruce Hudson  
Mr. John Mayes  
Chief George Potter  
Sheriff Carlton Powell  
Mr. Roger Waldrop  
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.  
Ms. Rose Williams  
Mr. Jerry Willis

**CONFERENCE CALL:**

Mr. Bill Acuff  
Sherriff Roger Garrison  
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.  
Dr. Henrie Treadwell  
Mr. Justin Wiedeman

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Beth Burton, Attorney General's Office

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Mr. Brian Owens, Commissioner  
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Intergovernmental & Public Affairs  
Mr. Alex Haden, Warden of Harris County Prison  
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain  
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison  
Mr. Jack Koon, Deputy Director of Facility Operations  
Mr. Mike Kraft, Deputy Director of Probation Operations  
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit  
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of Operations, Planning & Training  
Ms. Patricia Smith, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Randy Tillman, Facilities Division Director  
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Probation Officer  
Mr. Edward Walker, Harris County Prison

**VISITORS:**

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin  
Mr. Lochlin Rosen, Southern Center for Human Rights  
Mr. David Pratt, Southern Strategy Group

Chairman Tommy M. Rouse called the October meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison Simone Juhmi-Green recorded the minutes. Chairman Tommy M. Rouse welcomed all visitors and staff to the Board of Corrections, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Rouse confirmed that Mr. Bill Acuff, Sherriff Roger Garrison, Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr., Dr. Henrie Treadwell and Mr. Justin Wiedeman were connected by conference call.

Chairman Rouse presented to the Board the October Agenda for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Chief George Potter, and was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Rouse presented to the Board the September Minutes for approval. Sheriff Carlton Powell made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Chief George Potter, and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Owens began his report by asking Board Attorney Joseph Drolet to introduce Attorney Beth Burton. Ms. Burton will serve as Deputy Attorney General and Director of the Criminal Justice Division, where she will oversee the Capital Litigation Section, the Post-Conviction Section, the Public Safety Section and the Medicaid Fraud Unit.

Commissioner Owens briefly spoke about some key Personnel moves and retirements throughout the Department and asked that Facilities Director, Randy Tillman introduce Deputy Director of Facility Operations, Mr. Jack Koon. Mr. Koon has held many positions to include Senior Counselor, Deputy Warden of Administration, Superintendent, Statewide Coordinator of Transitional Centers and Warden at Coastal State Prison.

Commissioner Owens presented the Upcoming Events for October, November and December 2012. Significantly mentioned, is the Criminal Justice Stakeholder meeting with Vera Institute on October 4<sup>th</sup>, Georgia Probation Association "Top Gun" Firearms Competition at the Range Complex at GD&CP on October 25<sup>th</sup> and the GDC Senior Leadership Off-Site in Reidsville, Georgia.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 1,215. The Sheriff's numbers are at 3,520; Commissioner Owens stated both numbers are correct. Commissioner Owens mentioned the Probation backlog and how Criminal Justice Reform has helped the prison system overall.

Commissioner Owens stated Ms. Betsy Thomas, Chief Probation Officer of Eastman Probation Office will brief on Criminal Justice Reform and DRC Lite Program. Then, Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public & Intergovernmental Affairs will brief the Military Recruiting Job Fair. Plus, Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of Operations, Planning & Training will present the Senior Leadership Offsite and the Basic Probation Parole Officer Training. To conclude, Mr. Mike Kraft, Deputy Director of Probation Operations will brief on the Augusta Joint Task Force.

Ms. Betsy Thomas presented on House Bill 1176. Some of the highlights from the presentation were the goals of the Criminal Justice Reform Council, key facts regarding the most common prison admission offenses, Community Corrections Analysis data, current GDC initiatives, Electronic Records Submission and Justice Reinvestment. In addition, Ms. Thomas spoke on the concept for the DRC Lite Pilot Program which is to provide enhanced supervision and programming for identified substance abusing offenders in rural circuits using the \$750,000 allocated in FY 2013 for pilot programs. This was officially awarded on August 17, 2012. Ms. Thomas also covered the key components of the program, which circuits will be a pilot for the program, the program curriculum, phase structure, supervision components and drug testing systems. This concluded Ms. Thomas' report.

To follow, Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public & Intergovernmental Affairs briefed on the Military Recruiting Job Fair that was held September 26, 2012 at State Office South at Tift College. The purpose of the job fair was to assist the Georgia National Guard with securing jobs for military personnel returning from duty, and filling critical law enforcement positions with highly trained/skilled individuals. Ms. Heath's presentation of the job fair included participating agencies, results, photos of the event, demonstrations, broadcast coverage of the event, feedback from participants and future military recruitment job fairs across the state. This concluded Ms. Heath's report.

Next, Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of Operations, Planning & Training will present the Senior Leadership Offsite and the Basic Probation Parole Officer Training. Mr. Smith stated that the purpose of the Senior Leadership Offsite is to provide continuing coordination, education, and professional development for GDC senior leaders while fostering the principles of a learning organization. Several items will be discussed at the Senior Leadership Offsite such as the agenda, activities and prison tours scheduled, the agencies unique capabilities, roles and missions, applying Society 3.0 concepts, critical thinking skills, day to day operations and missions of Correctional Officers and other employees.

In addition, Mr. Smith conducted a presentation on the Basic Probation Parole Officer Training. This training is an "Interoperability" initiative by the Georgia Department of Corrections & the State Board of Pardons and Paroles wherein new officers go through a combined eight week program of basic training and dual certification through P.O.S.T. The program has joint instructor teams that provide effective training on the best community supervision practices and processes. This concluded Mr. Smith's report.

To finish, Mr. Mike Kraft, Deputy Director of Probation Operations presented on the Augusta Joint Task Force operations. This operation is a collaborative effort between GDC and local law enforcement on community safety issues. Mr. Kraft stated that the goal of the operation is to enhance public safety. Several highlights from the task force operation was mentioned such as the personnel involved, a summary of events, and previous task force operations conducted in Atlanta, Macon and Columbus. Mr. Kraft stated the overall operation was a success. This concluded Mr. Kraft's report.

This concluded Commissioner Owens' report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Tommy M. Rouse began his report by asking Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr. to present on the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). The Boys & Girls Clubs of the CSRA are comprised of six Club locations as well as the administrative offices that surround the Central Savannah River Area. Mr. Whitehead distributed a handout that had general information on the comprehensive youth development program. Mr. Whitehead stated that the program is dedicated to helping the youth succeed. Through targeted activities and partnerships with caring adults, they drive positive outcomes for the youth members in three areas of development: academic achievement, character development and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. Mr. Whitehead expressed how many children lack supervision and guidance they need to help them make good choices. The overall program helps children reach their full potential. To conclude, Mr. Whitehead asked the Board members to support the Boys & Girls Clubs. This concluded Mr. Whitehead's report.

Chairman Rouse then asked Mr. Carl Franklin to present on the "Voices of Hope" Choir Performance. Mr. Franklin stated the choir sung at his local church and they gave a great performance. This concluded Mr. Franklin's report.

Chairman Rouse called for a report from Mr. Wayne Dasher, chair of the Operations Committee. Mr. Wayne Dasher, along with Mr. Tommy Rouse, and Chief George Potter, as members of the Operations Committee, talked about the application of Mr. Edward Walker for Deputy Warden of Harris County Prison. The members of the Committee are in agreement about the appointment of Mr. Walker to Deputy Warden. This morning Mr. Dasher held a meeting to talk with Mr. Walker and the Warden of Harris County, Mr. Alex Haden. Mr. Dasher stated it is the recommendation from the Operations Committee for Mr. Walker to be approved as Deputy Warden of Harris County Prison. Chairman Rouse announced it is the recommendation of the state committee, and, it is also an automatic second from the state committee. Chairman Rouse called for a vote from the full Board of Corrections, and the Board members voted approval. Chairman Rouse thanked Mr. Walker for being there, and congratulated him for this new position. Mr. Walker stood and stated thank you to the Board. Chairman Rouse stated the Board looks forward to Mr. Walker's continued service in the new position.

Sheriff Carlton Powell reminded Chief George Potter to remind the Board that he is retiring soon from the City of Perry. Chief Potter made the announcement stating that November 15<sup>th</sup> would be his official retirement date. Chief Potter invited the Board to his retirement celebration.

Chairman Rouse asked if there was any old or new business.

The Nominations Committee reported on the status of nominating new officers for the upcoming year and spoke briefly about redistricting of Georgia. Mr. Wayne Dasher stated that the current Chairs of the Board will remain until further advisement from the Governor's office.

To conclude, Chairman Rouse reminded the Board of Corrections that the next Board meeting will be on November 1, 2012 at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Tommy M. Rouse, Chairman

---

Rose Williams, Secretary

---

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison