

## **BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**February 1, 2024**

**Forsyth, Georgia**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sheriff Barry H. Babb  
Mr. Duke Blackburn  
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen  
Mr. Chris Clark  
Mr. Thomas Culpepper  
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.  
Mr. Larry Haynie – Chairman  
Sheriff Donnie Pope  
Mr. Rossie Ross  
Mr. Alton Russell  
Mr. W. D. Strickland  
Ms. Rose Williams

### **CONFERENCE CALLS:**

Sheriff Gary Gulledge  
Ms. Janelle King

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Bruce Carlisle  
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard  
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General’s Office

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner  
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner  
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel  
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development  
Ms. Lori Benoit, Office of Public Affairs  
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services  
Ms. Jessica Eanes, Office of Public Affairs  
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs  
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research  
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant  
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison  
Mr. Bernard Miller, Chaplain  
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT  
Mr. Henry Rutherford III, Director of OIT  
Mr. Stan Shepard, Director of Facilities Operations  
Ms. Donna Tebought, Director of Reentry Services  
Mr. Chris Tiller, Director of GCI  
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison  
Mr. Joel Toliver, OIT  
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director, Office of Professional Standards

### **VISITORS:**

Alejandro Bejarano, Chandley Communications  
Robin Chandley, Chandley Communications  
Wayne Dasher, Former Board Member  
Fran Konradt, Friend of Andrea Shelton  
Andrea Shelton, Former Board Member

First, Chairman Larry Haynie called to order the February meeting for the Board of Corrections (“the Board”) at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Haynie then asked Chaplain Bernard Miller to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Haynie led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Haynie welcomed and recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Haynie then confirmed the following individuals were present via conference call: Board Members Sheriff Gary Gulledge and Ms. Janelle King.

Next, Chairman Haynie and Commissioner Tyrone Oliver presented a board resolution and badge to Mr. Wayne Dasher and to Ms. Andrea Shelton. Mr. Dasher was appointed to the Board of Corrections in February 2004 by Governor Sonny Perdue. Ms. Shelton was appointed to the Board of Corrections in June 2014 by Governor Nathan Deal. Both Mr. Dasher and Ms. Shelton faithfully served as Executive Officers and they both served on several committees on the Board of Corrections while holding their seats.

The resolutions and badges were presented and a photo was taken of the presentations. Mr. Dasher and Ms. Shelton both thanked the Board and the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Chairman Haynie presented the February 1, 2024 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. J. C. "Spud" Bowen. The Agenda was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Haynie presented the December 7, 2023 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W. D. Strickland made the motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Minutes were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

To begin the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, to present a Department of Corrections 30-year service award to Ms. Donna Tebought, Director of Reentry Services. In addition, Commissioner Oliver and Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff, also presented Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services, with his Department of Corrections 30-year service award. Photos were taken of both award presentations.

Commissioner Oliver continued his report with a Budget Update. He began by giving a brief overview of the Annual Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Governor's Recommendation. Some of the highlights discussed were the Annual Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 recommendations on the following:

**Departmental Administration:** (Recruitment Advertising and Work Culture, Georgia Building Authority Rental Rate for Security & Operational Cost);

**Detention Centers:** (Correctional Officer 3 Rank (Existing Funds), Operational Costs at Facilities Statewide);

**Food and Farm Operations:** (Correctional Officer 3 Rank (Existing Funds), Additional Offender Meals on Weekends);

**Health:** (Physical Health and Pharmacy Service Contracts);

**Offender Management:** (Transfer to Department of Administration Program, Virtual Courts Technology Efficiencies);

**Private Prisons:** (Bed Capacity Increase);

**State Prisons:** (Vocational Education Contracts with Technical College System of Georgia, Safety, Security and Technology Initiatives, Offender Call Monitoring, Radio Communications, Correctional Officer 3 Rank, Operational Costs at Facilities Statewide, Capital Maintenance and Repairs, Recruitment and Retention Cost Avoidance, Closure of Human Resources Recruitment Centers, Privatizing Food Service at 4 Facilities, Replacing Basic Correctional Officer Training Notebooks with Chromebooks);

**Transition Centers:** (Operational Cost for Metro Re-Entry Phase IV, Correctional Officer 3 Rank (Existing Funds), Operational Costs at Facilities Statewide);

**Capital Outlay:** (New State Prison Construction Washington County, Major Maintenance and Repairs, Purchase Augusta TC, Food and Farm Equipment Statewide, Replace 218 Vehicles Statewide, Replace 10 Buses Statewide);

To close, Commissioner Oliver discussed the statewide recommendations of a One-Time Salary Supplements (\$1,000), Cost-of-Living-Adjustments (4% up to \$3,000), Salary Enhancement for POST-Certified Law Enforcement Officers (\$3,000), DOAS Administered Insurance Programs, Telecommunications/Infrastructure Rates for GTA, Merit System Assessment Billings, Teachers Retirement System Employer Contribution Rate and closing out with the entire Program Net Overview.

Commissioner Oliver then asked Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison, to give a Legislative Session Update.

Mr. Thrower began his report by giving a Legislative recap and pointing out key dates such as Crossover (Day 28): Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> and Sine Die (Day 40): Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Thrower then briefly advised who the 2023-2024 Chairs were:

- **House Appropriations: Matt Hatchett (Dublin)**
- **House Public Safety: J Collins (Villa Rica)**
- **House Public Safety Appropriations: Bill Hitchens (Pooler)**
- **Senate Appropriations: Blake Tillery (Vidalia)**
- **Senate Public Safety/Appropriations: John Albers (Roswell)**

Also discussed was Senate Bill 159 which specifies penalties for employees or contractors looking to introduce contraband into a prison or jail. Employees or contractors convicted of introducing contraband shall be sentenced to a term of 10 years and any person convicted of introducing contraband shall be sentenced to a term of 5 to 10 years.

Mr. Thrower closed by stating that he will update the Board with any additional bills that may arise in the future.

This concluded Mr. Thrower's report.

Commissioner Oliver then asked Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources, to give a brief Human Resources Update.

Ms. Edwards began her report by giving a brief overview of Recruitment and Retention. Some of the highlights that were discussed were the correctional officer vacancy/turnovers, the annual vacancy rate, annual turnover rate, terminated Correctional Officer length of employment, terminated Correctional Officer's by generation, the hired Correctional Officer's by generation, the Correctional Officer salaries, and the monthly hiring and separations.

Ms. Edwards closed by discussing the Statewide Job Applicants detail by month.

Following Ms. Edwards, Ms. Robin Chandley of Chandley Communications discussed their Recruitment Campaign Strategy and Analysis Overview partnership with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Some of the highlights from the overview were discussing the primary objective, the market area, the primary audience targeted and the secondary audience. Also discussed were the strategy tactics used such as linear cable, broadcast television, streaming TV/OTT, YouTube, pre-roll video, Meta - Facebook/Instagram, targeted email, site retargeting, Advanced Targeted Display, SEM/ paid search.

Ms. Chandley also discussed advertising funnel, Awareness Campaigns (attract), Interest Campaigns (interact), Conversion Campaigns(convert), the benefits of broadcast television and the benefits of cable, spots, impression, Campaign Strategy Results (GA4 - Website Traffic Overview), application submissions by month, application submissions by tactic, location targets for the Georgia Department of Corrections facilities (Baldwin State Prison, Hancock State

Prison, Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison, Hays State Prison, Whitworth Women's Facility, Coastal State Prison, Ware State Prison, Smith State Prison, Washington State Prison, Johnson State Prison, Valdosta State Prison, Autry State Prison, Dodge State Prison, Pulaski State Prison, Wilcox State Prison, Telfair State Prison, Macon State Prison, and Calhoun State Prison.

To close Ms. Chandley discussed the next steps, video production in McRae/Phillips/Metro, Reentry Prison, focusing on making a real connection with potential new hires, fulfillment, training, professionalism, comradery, and making a difference.

This concluded the report of Ms. Robin Chandley.

Last Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services Division, to give an Inmate Services Division Update.

Mr. Sanders began by discussing highlights from the Inmate Services Fiscal Year 2023 Impact Report.

Some of the highlights Mr. Sanders discussed were the treatment effects from programs, academic completions, library services, Career Technical Higher Education, post-secondary, partnerships, the Addiction Certification Preparation Program, release document repository, volunteer services, and seminary programs.

Mr. Sanders closed by telling the board members they each had the Inmate Services Impact Report booklet in their possession to keep and Mr. Sanders explained what page each item was listed on.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report and the Commissioner's Report.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Under the Chairman's Report, Chairman Haynie explained how the yearly collection for the Georgia Prison Warden's Association Board of Corrections scholarship fund is handled. Chairman Haynie advised that the scholarship collection would begin today, and the Board continues to collect for this scholarship for a few months until the fifteen hundred dollar (\$1,500) goal is met.

The 2024 Committee Assignments were distributed.

Chairman Haynie then expressed that the 2024 Board Calendar would be reviewed and discussed before the next board meeting and that specific locations would be added to the months of April and October. In addition, Chairman Haynie expressed that he may ask to change the location of the June and December meetings also. Chairman Haynie stated that he would bring back an update to the Board at the March board meeting.

There were no Old or New Business, so Chairman Haynie reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on March 7, 2024, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

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Larry Haynie, Chairman

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J.C. "Spud" Bowen, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison