

## **BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**March 5, 2020**

**Forsyth, Georgia**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Chris Clark  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.  
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard  
Mr. John Mayes  
Mr. Donnie Pope  
Ms. Neat Robinson  
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse  
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman  
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.  
Mr. W. D. Strickland  
Ms. Rose Williams  
Mr. Jerry Willis

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Duke Blackburn  
Mr. Mike Coggins  
Mr. Larry Haynie  
Ms. Andrea Shelton

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner  
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner  
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel  
Ms. Verona Baly, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology  
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards  
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs  
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant  
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison  
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director of GCI  
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards  
Mr. David Smith, Director of Engineering & Construction Services  
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director of GCI  
Mr. Ontario Tolbert, Sergeant, Phillips Transitional Center  
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain  
Mr. Chris Walker, Director of Strategic, Planning & Management

### **VISITORS:**

Ms. June Wood, Former Board Member

First, Chairman Alton Russell called to order the March meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Alton Russell then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Russell led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Next, Chairman Russell and Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented a board resolution to Ms. June Wood. Ms. Wood was appointed to the Board of Corrections on November 17, 2017 by Governor Nathan Deal. Since that time, she has served as a Board member with commitment and dedication while holding the Thirteenth District seat.

The resolution and badge were presented to Ms. Wood for her years of service on the Board of Corrections.

Chairman Russell presented the March 2020 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Russell also presented the February Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W. D. Strickland made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The Minutes were then voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

To begin the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Timothy C. Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

To follow, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services Division, to present an Inmate Services Division overview.

In his presentation, Mr. Sanders discussed the Inmate Services Impact Report for Fiscal Year 2019.

Mr. Sanders began by discussing several items in the report such as the benefits of correctional programming and education, treatment effects from programs, initial correctional counseling training, addiction certification preparation program, fidelity of implementation, trauma informed program, residential substance abuse treatment programs, research, evaluation, assessment, and development unit, odyssey program development and implementation and the program treatment completion certificates.

In addition, Mr. Sanders spoke on transitional services, the Metro Reentry Facility, reentry assessment centers, release document repository, peach pass partnerships, volunteer and chaplaincy services, academic education, special populations served, the Foothills Charter High School, library services and book donations and the GDC Education Conference.

Mr. Sanders concluded his report with discussing the career, technical, and higher education Fiscal Year 2019 program completions, the monthly enrollments, Ashland University partnerships, preparing inmates for employment, the animal care programs, the Braille Transcribers program and all the partnerships we have.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of the Facilities Division, to give a brief update on the Facilities Division.

Mr. Holt began his report by giving a facilities project update. Some of the highlights mentioned were Fiscal 2020 video hearings report, ACA accreditations by region statewide, the Burruss CTC Peer-Mentor Program, Evidence Based Prison Expansion and the Hawk's Ear installation. This concluded Mr. Holt's report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to present a Budget Update.

Mr. Watson began by discussing the Annual Fiscal Year 2020 and the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget update. Mr. Watson's presentation included budget monitoring the House and Senate Amended Fiscal Year 2020 and the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, the Kronos timekeeping system and the Business Process Improvements for the Regional Business Offices.

This concluded Mr. Watson's report.

Thereafter, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of the Facilities Division, to present the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition award. Mr. Holt stated that he would be presenting the award to Mr. Ontario Tolbert, Sergeant, Phillips Transitional Center.

Mr. Holt stated that Sergeant Tolbert responded to an emergency of an unconscious resident at Phillips Transitional Center. Upon arriving on the scene, Sergeant Tolbert instructed his fellow officers to call 911 while he administered Narcan Nasal Spray, and performed CPR until Emergency Medical Services arrived at the facility. Thanks to Sergeant Tolbert's quick thinking and utilizing his departmental certified training, he was able to save the resident's life.

A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Afterwards, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce and present the short Beyond the Walls video on Mr. Guy Toles.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Alton Russell began the "Chairman's Report" by saying that he and Board member John Mayes, would make the final contribution to reach our goal for the 2020 Georgia Prison Wardens Association Scholarship Fund.

In addition, Chairman Russell asked Mr. Wayne Dasher to give an update about the April board meeting in Glennville.

Last of all, Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business by asking the Board members for a motion to approve the following resolutions:

**Correctional Officers' Week:** Recognizing the week of May 3 - 9, 2020, for the faithful and dedicated service performed by correctional officers each day.

**National Nurses' Week:** Recognizing the week of May 6 - 12, 2020, for the vital role nurses play in the health care industry, and for their commitment in providing healthcare to each individual.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve both resolutions, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. Both resolutions were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Russell selected Board member Jerry Willis, as the Secretary for the duration of the board meeting, so that he could officially sign the approved board minutes in the absence of the Board Secretary, Mr. Duke Blackburn and Vice Chairman Larry Haynie.

Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on April 16th, in Glennville.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Alton Russell, Chairman

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Duke Blackburn, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison