BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
November 7, 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. – Vice Chairman
Sheriff Gary Gulledge
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Mr. Bruce Carlisle
Mr. John B. Edwards
Ms. Janelle King
Ms. Rose Williams

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:
Ms. Elizabeth Crowder, Attorney General's Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Jackson Defore, Assistant Commissioner of Finance & Admin
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Office of Communications
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Henry Rutherford, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Mr. Joel Tolliver, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:
Dr. Sara Higinbotham, Common Good Atlanta
Ms. Daja Hodges, Citizen
Ms. Tiffany Kirk, Common Good Atlanta
Mr. Stan Shepard, Former GDC Employee

First, Vice Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. called to order the November meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Vice Chairman Fleming then asked Chaplain Kenneth Ellis to deliver the invocation. Following such, Vice Chairman Fleming led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman Fleming welcomed and recognized all guests and visitors and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Vice Chairman Fleming, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver, and Mr. Ahmed Holt presented a Board Resolution and the Pheonix Award to former Facilities Director Stan Shepard, who retired from the Georgia Department of Corrections after serving 30 years.

The resolution and award were presented and a photo was taken of the presentations.

Vice Chairman Fleming presented the Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Rossie Ross made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Culpepper. The Agenda was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Vice Chairman Fleming presented the September 5, 2024 Minutes and the October 24, 2024 Special Called Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve both set of Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. W. D. Strickland. The Minutes were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver discussed briefly the Commissioner's Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency. Commissioner Oliver discussed the possible opening of the McRae Women's Facility in December 2024, the upcoming Georgia Department of Corrections Senate Study Committee Meeting, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee Meeting.

Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services to introduce Dr. Sara Higinbotham and Ms. Tiffany Kirk from Common Good Atlanta.

Dr. Higinbotham and Ms. Kirk presented an Inmate Services Educational Update on the Common Good Atlanta programming, program outcomes, all the facilities Common Good Atlanta serves, and the continuing services upon release for Common Good Atlanta candidates. Also discussed were the National Recidivism Statistics, volunteer faculty at Common Good Atlanta, minimal funding cost for the program, and awards that were received by Common Good Atlanta such as the Governor's Award for Arts and Humanities in 2019 and the "Atlanta Uniter" Award from Atlanta FC *(professional soccer club based in Atlanta*) in 2022. Dr. Higinbotham and Ms. Kirk closed by discussing ongoing college classes in transitional centers, and their work in Georgia facilities, to include pictures of alumni that have succeeded with Common Good Atlanta programming.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Under the Chairman's Report, Vice Chairman Fleming began by asking Secretary J. C. "Spud" Bowen to discuss the 2025 Board of Corrections Georgia Prison Warden's Association scholarship fund.

Secretary Bowen advised the Board typically gives a $1,500 dollar scholarship each year; however, for 2025 he would like the scholarship fund to be raised to $2,500 and make the donation in honor of former Board Chairman Larry Haynie. Secretary Bowen also stated that if each member donated $138 dollars, that would be the total scholarship amount. There was some discussion and Mr. Thomas Culpepper advised he would donate the first $1000 dollars for 2025 towards the scholarship.

Vice Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve this change for the 2025 Board of Corrections Georgia Prison Warden's Association scholarship fund. Secretary J. C. "Spud" Bowen made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell and Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr. The change on the amount for the 2025 Board of Corrections Georgia Prison Warden's Association scholarship fund were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Further, Vice Chairman Fleming asked Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr., to give the Nominations Committee formal recommendation choices for the 2025 Executive Officers of the Board.

Mr. Solis stated that the Nominations Committee met and agreed to nominate Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. as the Chairman, Mr. J. C. "Spud" Bowen as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Chris Clark as the Secretary for the 2025 Nomination of Officers.

Vice Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve the nominations. Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. W. D. Strickland. The nominations were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Vice Chairman Fleming then thanked the Board for the upcoming opportunity to serve as the Board Chairman.

Vice Chairman Fleming briefly discussed the December board meeting being held in Savannah, Georgia.

Under Old or New Business, Vice Chairman Fleming asked the members to review and discuss the dates and possible locations on the 2025 Board Calendar. Vice Chairman Fleming stated that he would like to make the following adjustments:

- January 2nd – Cancelled
- July 3rd – Cancelled
- August 7th – Cancelled

In addition, there will be three (3) *To Be Determined (TBD)* possible meeting locations for 2025. Sheriff Stacy Jarrard expressed having a board meeting in Dahlonega, Georgia in 2025; however, the Board tabled setting those three meetings so that the Executive Officers could help determine which specific months are suitable to organize away board meetings for the entire Board.

In the interim, all meetings will be set for Forsyth, Georgia until specific months are identified.

Vice Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve the 2025 Board Calendar. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis and Mr. Chris Clark. The 2025 Board Calendar were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Vice Chairman Fleming closed the board meeting by reminding the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on December 5, 2024, at the Andaz hotel in Savannah, Georgia.

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

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Ester Fleming Jr., Vice Chairman

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J.C. "Spud" Bowen, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison