BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
October 2, 2025
Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen
Ms. Kellie Brownlow
Mr. Rodney Bryant
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. John B. Edwards
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. – Chairman
Sheriff Gary Gulledge
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.
Mr. Bruce Carlisle

CONFERENCE CALL:
Mr. Ken Hyle, Moss Group
Matt Pietrowski, Guidehouse

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 and Admin
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division
Mr. Louis DeBroux, Assistant Commissioner, Research, Strategic Planning, Government Affairs
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Mr. Benjamin Ford, Facilities Director
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
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Joel Tolliver, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:
Ms. Kathryn Hammondah, SCHR
Ms. Monica Miller, Community
Ms. Sophia Tedesco, Southern Center Human Rights

First, Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. called to order the October 2, 2025 meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

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

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

Chairman Fleming presented the Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Rossie Ross 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 Fleming presented the September 4, 2025 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W. D. Strickland made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell and Mr. Thomas Culpepper. The Minutes were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver gave a brief update on the Office of Professional Standards Canine Officer who was injured, the ModCorr site visit, Stakeholder Day at Smith State Prison, and the Georgia Department of Corrections Mental Health Day.

Next Commissioner Oliver briefly discussed the Commissioner's Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Oliver then asked Mr. Ken Hyle, from Guidehouse, to do a brief Guidehouse/Moss Group Update.

Following such, Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Gary Bell, Operations Manager, to present a Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Emergency Management Update. Some of the highlights of the Emergency Management Update were discussing the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan, the partnerships to respond to all hazards internally or externally statewide, preparation (notification to all staff, review facility emergency plans and encourage staff to have a personal plan; confirming amount of food and water bottles available, preparing GDC assets to support internal or external needs, mitigate impacts - securing loose items, sandbags, establish teams group for communication and tracking of the event), Mr. Bell also discussed the response (identify internal needs and coordinate support, deploying assets as needed; recovery (return of offenders to evacuated facilities, continuing to support external needs while emergency declaration is in effect, repair damages to any facilities impacted, track and compile expenses from impacts of emergency, and identify areas of success and areas for improvement.

Mr. Bell continued by discussing emergency examples such as hurricanes, winter weather, COVID, tornadoes, protests and riots, and various other emergencies. Mr. Bell closed by discussing Hurricane Helene landfall as a Category 4 Hurricane in the Florida panhandle, power outages, communications impacted, water impacted, fuel availability, debris clearance teams, mobile field force teams, evacuations, taking care of others, and other Georgia Department of Corrections Support.

This concluded the report of Mr. Bell and the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no business under the Chairman's Report, so Chairman Fleming moved on to Old or New Business.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Fleming discussed the 2026 Board Calendar. Chairman Fleming advised the Board that the January board meeting date fell on a holiday, and most of the board members plan to be on vacation during the New Year's holiday. In addition, the February board meeting date conflicts with the American Correctional Association Conference; therefore, Chairman Fleming advised that he desires to change the January 1st board meeting to January 29th and cancel the February board meeting altogether. Chairman Fleming expressed that the Board would set a special meeting, if need be, for any business that need to be voted on during January and February.

Chaiman Fleming asked for a motion to approve the calendar date change. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve the date change, which was seconded by Mr. Rossie Ross and Ms. Rose Williams. The January board date was changed, and the February board date was canceled and both changes were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Last on the agenda, Chaiman Fleming asked if there was a need to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Oliver expressed there was so that the Board could consult with legal counsel pertaining to legal matters.

Chairman Fleming then asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. WD Strickland made a motion to move into the Executive Session, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell. The vote for the Board to move into Executive Session were voted "approved" by the Board.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve moving out of Executive Session. Mr. WD Strickland made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The vote for the Board to move out of Executive Session were voted "approved" by the Board.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve moving back into Regular Session. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. W.D. Strickland. The vote for the Board to move back into Regular Session were voted "approved" by the Board.

Chairman Fleming reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

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

Ester Fleming Jr., Chairman

Chris Clark, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison