

RESOLUTION OF THE GORDON COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Whereas, A regional Public Safety Emergency began in the early morning hours of Monday, September 7, 2020 in Whitfield County, Georgia when a fugitive from Texas shot a Whitfield County Deputy Sheriff. Thankfully, the deputy survived after being struck in his body armor. The shooter and another fugitive fled the scene, crashed the vehicle, and absconded into the woods near the border of Whitfield and Gordon Counties. A manhunt ensued and one of the fugitives was apprehended on September 8, 2020.

Whereas, The fugitive that remained at large was able to evade Law Enforcement Authorities within an established perimeter until September 9, 2020. The fugitive shot a civilian, Eddie Cloer, in Gordon County. Mr. Cloer was armed and was able to return fire in self defense despite being wounded by the assailant. Under the leadership of the Gordon County Sheriff and his Deputies, the perimeter was reinforced with over 150 law enforcement personnel from numerous jurisdictions. The Fire Department, The Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Medical Services and E911 provided back up, support services and communications. The Calhoun Police Department was available and provided coverage for other law enforcement calls in the county.

Whereas, The second fugitive was successfully apprehended and placed in custody. The Board of Commissioners recognizes and is appreciative of the high level of regional cooperation between many jurisdictions and departments that lead to the capture of these fugitives. According to Gordon County Sheriff Mitch Ralston, “the search ultimately involved over 150 local, state, and federal peace officers from Whitfield County Sheriff’s Office, Gordon County Sheriff’s Office, Murray County Sheriff’s Office, Bartow County Sheriff’s Office, Floyd County Sheriff’s Office, Floyd County Police, Chattooga County Sheriff’s Office, Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force, Fairmount Police, Chatsworth Police, Tunnel Hill Police, Lafayette Police, and Calhoun Police; the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) troopers, SWAT Team, and Aviation Units, Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), Georgia Department of Corrections K9 Units, Georgia Department of Community Supervision, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the United States Marshals Service. GSP helicopters were continuously deployed, along with ground teams and officers mounted on ATVs, as were search dogs from many jurisdictions.” The Sheriff also “praised the Emergency Management, Fire/Rescue, E911 communications, and emergency medical personnel who tirelessly supported the operation.”

Now Therefore, The Gordon County Board of Commissioners recognizes the dedication and heroism of our local and regional Law Enforcement Officers who, at risk of grave danger, pursued and captured the suspect. The Board of Commissioners also recognizes the bravery and heroism of its citizen Eddie Cloer who, although shot by the assailant, was armed and able to return fire in defense of himself and others.

Therefore Be It Resolved That, The Commissioners of Gordon County take this opportunity to emphasize their support and deep appreciation of our Law Enforcement Officers, Deputies, and our Public Safety First Responders. The Commissioners also resolve, state, and re-emphasize their support for The Second Amendment and the right of persons to own and bear arms in defense of themselves and others. Finally, the Board of Commissioners is thankful that the Whitfield County Deputy and Eddie Cloer survived the shootings and we pray for a full and swift recovery and their return to good health.

So Resolved this Fifteenth day of September in the Year Two Thousand Twenty.

By: The Gordon County Board of Commissioners

Becky Hood, Chairman

Attest:

Annette Berry, County Clerk