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AND JUDGE
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2016 JAN 15 AM 11:12

CLARE D. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

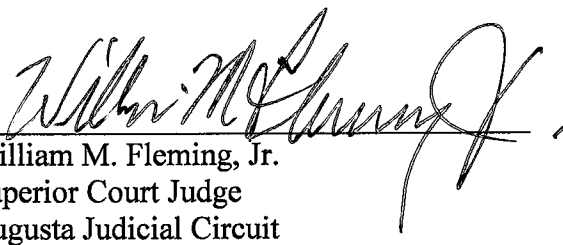
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER TERM 2015

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the November Term 2015, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on January 15, 2016, it is now,

ORDERED that the said presentment shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Richmond County, and that it shall be published once in the *Augusta Chronicle*, the legal gazette for said County; and

FURTHER ORDERED that the said general presentment shall be posted by the Director of Information Technology on the Augusta-Richmond County website for public access through the Internet (World Wide Web).

It is so ORDERED this 15th day of January 2016.


William M. Fleming, Jr.
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable William M. Fleming, Jr.
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
November Term 2015

DATE: January 15, 2016

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the November Term 2015, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Sheryl B. Jolly on the 16th day of November 2015, submit our presentment on the 15th day of January 2016, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on eight (8) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

Sub-Committees were formed to inspect the Charles B. Webster Detention Center and the Coroner's Office; reports are attached.


The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 15th day of January 2016 and requests that it is published.

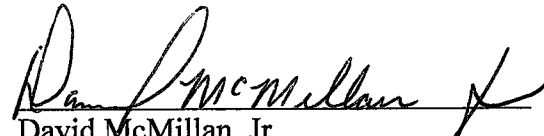

Andrew Steven Kaplan, Foreperson

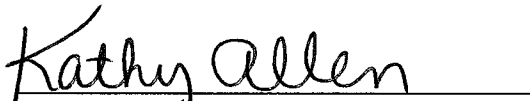
Jeffery Daniel Montgomery, Asst. Foreperson

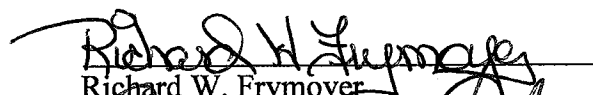

Janice Riley Heard, Secretary


Donna Yvonne Casnave

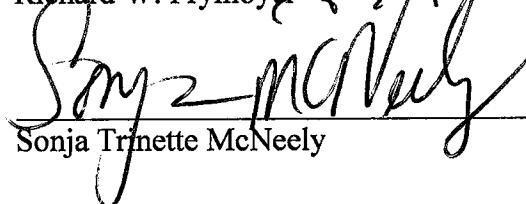

Tammy R. Culbreth


David McMillan, Jr.


Kathy Allen


Richard W. Frymoyer

Gerard Wade Hudson

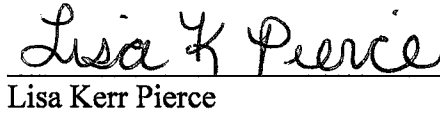

Sonja Trinetta McNeely


Cheryl L. Coronel

Dee Grossman Gilbert

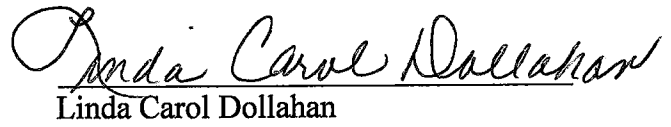

Nancy Lee Evans

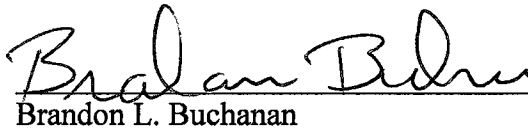
Kimberly Anne Hall



Lisa Kerr Pierce


Darius Marquel Scott

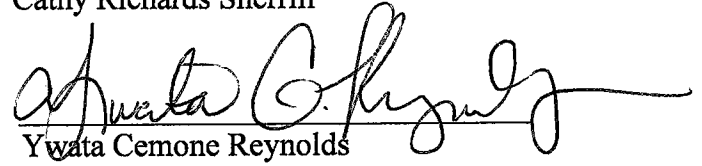
Richard L. Gamble


Linda Carol Dollahan


Brandon L. Buchanan


Cathy Richards Sherrill

Brandi Faye Jackson


Ywata Cemone Reynolds


Catracy C. Calloway

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NOVEMBER TERM 2015 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER

On December 1, 2015, a four-member Sub-Committee of the November Term 2015 Grand Jury inspected the Charles B. Webster Detention Center located at 1941 Phinizy Road in Augusta, Georgia. The facility – basically the Richmond County Jail – houses both male and female inmates. Sub-Committee Members greeted by Major Robert Leverett, Captain William Reeves and Captain Sheila White and immediately escorted to lunch with staff. Afterwards, Captains Reeves and White led Sub-Committee Members on a tour of the Detention Center as well as the adjacent Visitor's Center.

Once inside, we were shown the inmate intake process from its start to the inmate's release. The Detention Center has a new full-body scanner, like airports, to eliminate contraband from coming inside. Inmates accused of violent crimes and drug charges continue to go through a pat down and strip search. Other inmates receive a pat down. Moreover, a fingerprinting system is also in place to avoid identity fraud and incorrect inmate release. Inmates are given an identification wrist band which must be worn throughout their incarceration.

The Detention Center houses an average population of 835 inmates, but can house at least 1,050. During intake, inmates undergo a medical evaluation to determine their placement in the facility, i.e. mental health pod, suicide watch or general population. As previously stated, male and female inmates are housed in the Detention Center, but separately. Inmates accused of violent crimes are housed in a separate location and wear distinguishing jumpsuits which are striped; non-violent inmates are in solid-color jumpsuits.

The facility has nurses, doctors and dental services the inmates must pay for with money that is either in or has been added to their accounts. Families can add money to inmate accounts at the Visitor's Center. It is also from the Visitor's Center that 30-minute daily video visits can occur. This no-contact method eliminates contraband from getting to the inmates.

In conclusion, several other questions were answered in addition to the daily operation of the Detention Center. We were informed of proper evacuation procedures during a fire or natural disasters. We were shown the exit doors that lead to the fenced-in yard for inmates. Inmates are allowed outside for up to one hour per day, offered a clean facility for personal hygiene and proper bedding areas for resting. They are fed three times per day and have access to a television. The Detention Center has well-trained officers on duty at any given time to handle the inmates and their movements throughout the day. Sub-Committee Members were pleased with the visit. It was very educational with an awesome level of professionalism from our tour guides and management staff. The Charles B. Webster Detention Center appears to be operating smoothly and securely.

Respectfully submitted by the
Sub-Committee Members

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NOVEMBER TERM 2015 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CORONER'S OFFICE

On December 15, 2015, a six-member Sub-Committee of the November Term Grand Jury inspected the Augusta-Richmond County Coroner's Office located downtown on Eighth Street. Upon our arrival, we were greeted at the front desk by Bonnie Whitehead who led Sub-Committee Members to the conference room where we met with Coroner Mark Bowen.

Mr. Bowen provided a brief background of what takes place in the Coroner's Office and explained his staff's important roles. There are two, full-time deputy coroners and two, part-time deputy coroners. This office is the largest in Georgia and is one of four locations with a full-time coroner. Mr. Bowen also provides assistance to 34 other counties in Georgia.

Mr. Bowen explained the majority of what is handled through the Coroner's Office is investigating death cases except those involving hospice and nursing homes. In addition to investigating deaths, the Coroner's Office also notify families of any death(s) that has taken place. He assured us his office works diligently to provide accurate information to the deceased's family and any assistance needed. He is very confident with the work of his staff.

Mr. Bowen took us on a tour of the office where we were formally introduced to Bonnie and two, on-duty deputy coroners. We were shown the office where hard copies of the paper files are stored to back-up the e-file system. Next, we were shown the family room where families spend time with their loved ones before burial or cremation. The office provides as much assistance to the family as possible during this time of bereavement.

During the next part of the tour, we met with Carl who leads a team that runs the Tissue Donor Program. The Coroner's Office partnered with Georgia Regents University a little over five years ago to establish this program and Carl explained how the program works. For deaths that occur outside of the hospitals, it offers families of the deceased an opportunity to donate tissue of their loved ones. This program partners with the DMV to verify if their loved one had implemented this option on his/her driver's license and assist those who might not know what their loved one's preference would have been. Tissue is tested for all known diseases. It is kept in GRU's tissue bank and is used locally. These donations help an average of 130 to 150 transplant recipients at GRU every year. Should their loved one not qualify for tissue donation, there are body donor and research programs. They have a 90% consent rate and families are able to have funerals, at no cost to them, after the donation has taken place.

We were also shown coolers the bodies are stored in. The primary cooler stores a recently deceased's body until the death is investigated and then passed over to the family. The other cooler is for decomposed bodies that either needs to be identified or housed until the body is claimed by next of kin.

After the tour, Mr. Bowen advised Sub-Committee Members of several programs implemented which allows the office to run smoothly. He advised working to obtain an on-site pathologist to complete autopsies there. We hope Mr. Bowen is successful in this endeavor. Also, Mr. Bowen is working toward implementing a "scared straight" program for youths in the community. Additionally, his office handles a pauper's cemetery for unclaimed bodies.

Sub-Committee Members agreed this is a good idea if/when next of kin want to transfer their loved one to a place of their choosing. Implementation of an on-site property vault to store the deceased's property was well received by Sub-Committee Members. Mr. Bowen explained the property is logged and pictures are taken before the property is locked in the vault. Property is only released to the next of kin. The clerk has the only key to the vault.

Sub-Committee Members feel the systems and programs used by the Coroner's Office is working really well. We hope they do things to have continued success. We found the facility very clean and organized. Mr. Bowen and his staff were very nice, professional and seem to really care about their work.

Sub-Committee Members:

Kathy Allen
Catracy C. Calloway
Nancy Lee Evans
Janice Riley Heard
Sonja Trinette McNeely
Lisa Kerr Pierce