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CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE
AND JUVENILE COURT
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY

HATTIE HOLMES SULLIVAN
CLERK, RICHMOND CO., GA.

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE JULY TERM 2019

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the July Term 2019, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on September 10, 2019, 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 10th day of September 2019.



Michael N. Annis
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JULY TERM 2019 GRAND JURY

Grand Jury Jail visit

DETENTION CENTER

VISITED BY GRAND JURY ON AUGUST 13, 2019

Upon arrival at the detention center I was amazed at the size of the compound and the buildings. There were 4 jurors in the tour and we were all screened through a metal detector. Much like you would find at the airport. We were not allowed to take purses, cell phones or anything into the detention center past the lobby.

Captain Reese and Captain Mitchell greeted us in the waiting area and took us to enjoy a tasty lunch in the employee dining room. There is one large kitchen for the entire detention center but there is not a prisoner cafeteria. As one of the many well thought security measures the prisoner meals are loaded on to a cart, resembling the ones in hospitals, and delivered to the different sections of prisoners. Each section is called a Pod.

After lunch we continued our tour which was an experience that felt a little like being in another world. Unlike Disney World this is not the happiest place on earth. It was an odd feeling to have a massive door open to allow us into a space about the size of a standard elevator. Once inside, the door closed and locked behind us, only then did the door on the opposite side open to a hallway that led to where the prisoners are held. We toured the laundry and the intake area where new inmates surrender their personal belongings to be stored in a garment type bag and stored in a system very similar to a dry cleaners. They are then issued the jumpsuit that they will be wearing during their stay. We also toured the area where each inmate is interviewed and their personal and medical history is recorded.

Every precaution is taken to keep inmates and officers safe. The interior walls facing the hallways are a thick, multi-layer, reinforced glass. The guards and officers can see the inmates from the indoor towers in the center of each group of pods and from the hallways at all times. Inmates are separated by male, female, violent and nonviolent. In order to distinguish at a glance, nonviolent females are dressed in solid pink with the violent females wearing pink and white stripes. The male population is dressed in orange, solid for nonviolent with violent males dressed in orange and white stripes. The Trustee inmates are dressed in tan and have some additional duties and privileges.

In the cells we could see, in the old section of the building, there were some tiny windows to see outside. It may not seem like a luxury but the new cells have no windows and the common rooms have windows only way up near the top of a very high ceiling. Impossible to see a blade of grass, a tree or even the sky. Once a prisoner is in their assigned pod, that is where they will stay, unless they are taken to the on site medical area or on site courtroom. There is no direct contact with any outside visitors. All visitation of any sort is done by a closed circuit video system. Visitors must arrange in advance, a time and date to visit. Visitors are admitted to a separate Visitor building where they will be assigned a small cubby with a video monitor and a stool. That is where they will visit with an inmate via one of the two video monitors in the common area of the inmate's pod. There is no real privacy in the pod areas but it is understood that when an inmate is talking to someone on the monitor, the other inmates stay a distance out of respect. If you want this respect from fellow inmates when it's your turn, you will give it to others in order to earn it.

The jail itself was very clean, organized, and secure. The staff and inmates were courteous and respectful of us and each other. The staff really did appear to have safety as its main goal and the precautions that are in place are very secure. To sum up, it was a nice enough place to visit for a couple of hours but I wouldn't want to stay there.

Sallie Rueggeberg – Grand Jury Foreperson

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JULY TERM 2019 GRAND JURY

Augusta Animal Services visit

Augusta Animal Services

VISITED BY GRAND JURY ON AUGUST 6, 2019

Today I was tasked with a group of jurors to tour and inspect the Augusta Animal Services on Mack Lane. I was not sure what to expect and was pleasantly surprised by the caring staff on every level. At the time of our arrival we were greeted by Crystal Eskola who manages Animal Services and is obviously driven by her love of animals and a hope to find loving homes for as many as possible. Crystal answered all of our questions and then gave us a guided tour of the facility. The animals were organized and separated by size and species and in some circumstances. For instance, cats with their kittens are kept in a different area from adult cats.

So many pleading eyes, lost, abandoned, confused and begging to be loved. There was even a lanky, long legged, hound dog that reached out through the kennel door all the way to his shoulder trying to beckon attention to take him to his forever home. Crystal seemed to know about every animal, who loved to be petted, who was shy or afraid and what type of environment would best suit a particular animal.

The Animal shelter is a maze of rooms with a flurry of activity in every direction. The staff and volunteers have an insurmountable task to house, feed, clean and keep these animals as safe and healthy as possible. When we arrived there were 316 animals in house and before we left, another dog was brought to the shelter. These animals are available to be adopted and are already spayed or neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, tested for heart worms and ready to be loved. The cost for a pet is very reasonable at \$75.00 or less and there are even times when the shelter has specials to make the cost of having a pet affordable for anyone. On August 6, 2019 a total of 1854 animals had been adopted so far this year.

I understand that due to illness and sometimes disposition, not every animal gets to have a happy ending, however I am happy to report that there is a hardworking, caring group of animal lovers who work and volunteer at the shelter and care committed to helping the lost and abandoned pets of Augusta.

Zhane Elle Cochran
Rosa Elam
Sallie Ruggeberg

