

Book 4, pp 6170-6174

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AND JUVENILE COURT
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HATTIE HOLMES SULLIVAN
CLERK, RICHMOND CO., GA.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

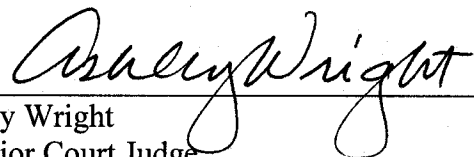
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE JANUARY TERM 2023

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the January Term 2023, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on March 14, 2023, 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 14th day of March 2023.



Ashley Wright
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable Ashley Wright
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
January Term 2023

DATE: March 14, 2023

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the January Term 2023, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Jesse C. Stone on the 17th day of January 2023, submit our presentment on the 14th day of March 2023, 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 nine (9) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

A Sub-Committee was formed to inspect the Charles B. Webster Detention Center and Probate Court. The applicable report is attached.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this Presentment on the 14th day of March 2023 and requests that it is published.

Rose Mary Sabb
Rose Mary Sabb, Foreperson

Tammy Lee Swift
Tammy Lee Swift, Asst. Foreperson

Krislyn Efanina Murphy
Krislyn Efanina Murphy, Secretary

Brittany Michelle Allen
Brittany Michelle Allen

Thaddaeus David K Harris
Thaddaeus David K Harris

Michael Alexander Crowell
Michael Alexander Crowell

Nicolas Ryan Howe
Nicolas Ryan Howe

Napoleon Lavasa Johnson
Napoleon Lavasa Johnson

George Andrew Williams
George Andrew Williams

LaKisha Shantae Hunter
LaKisha Shantae Hunter

Felicia A Lewis
Felicia A Lewis

Leslie C Lett
Leslie C Lett

Gregory Eric Cross, III

Gregory Eric Cross, III

Pamela M. Robinson

Pamela Michelle Robinson

Eddie Lee Lanham

Eddie Lee Lanham

Obdulia A. Ortiz

Obdulia A Ortiz

Barbara Ann Jordan

Barbara Ann Jordan

Rosie Catherine Barnes

Rosie Catherine Barnes

Edward L. Brown Jr

Edward L Brown Jr

Deborah Denise Drayton

Deborah Denise Drayton

William Winter Williams

William Winter Williams

Tyler Deonta McCullough

Tyler Deonta McCullough

Randolph Blackmon

Randolph Blackmon

Tamina Shadisha Dyers, Alternate

Cheryl Louise McLaughlin, Alternate

Jermaine Delvon Ratliff, Alternate

Inspection of the Probate Court by a Grand Jury Sub-Committee conducted February 28, 2023

On February 28, 2023, we started our tour of the Probate Court in the records division. The ladies there were wonderful; they shared that both had worked there for over 20 years and that it was a family environment, as evidenced by how everyone decorated their cubicles to reflect their personalities. They also spoke of the need for more space to store their records. The law states that certain records are to remain at the courthouse, but they simply don't have the space and are currently storing records at the Marvin Griffin Road location and the retention center.

The judge expressed a desperate need for a juvenile court and facility. We were astonished that with the size of Richmond County that we don't already have one in place!! How are we serving our children, our future and trying to give them any chance of a future if we just give up on them?? It's time we invest in them, redirect them and show them something different. We must do better.

Lastly, regarding salaries: We learned that although the employees received a cost of living raise, which is not much, they have not received a pay raise in over five or six years. It is hard to attract good staff and keep them. Moreover, when we have retention issues, the County gets staff trained (which costs us money), but then that staff will leave to go to another county offering higher pay. This just doesn't seem to be cost effective to the members of this Sub-Committee

Grand Jury Recommendations:

It is our recommendation with regards to the records storage issue that Probate Court be provided with either their own courthouse floor or a separate facility, as the courthouse is currently just not equipped for the volume of cases coming through. They need more court rooms.

Juvenile court also needs to have its own facility.

Salaries must be raised to be competitive enough to both hire and retain good candidates for employment.

Respectfully submitted by members of the Grand Jury,

Rose Mary Dobb

Kristen Allen

**Inspection of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center
by a Grand Jury Sub-Committee conducted February 14, 2023**

On February 14, 2023, we toured the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. Overall, we observed the Detention Center to be clean and well run. Captain Redmon was very professional and appeared to us to be doing a good job of managing the jail.

We also observed that many improvements to the facility's security have been made and that a number of renovations have recently been completed in various areas of the jail.

However, staffing continues to be an issue; the jail is under-staffed and at capacity with little free space. Many jobs are being done by Sheriff's deputies instead of by deputy jailors.

There are also plumbing issues, and many of the fixtures in the jail, such as the shower doors, are rusted.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

Jailors are hard to hire and retain; we recommend that more money and pay be allocated to adequately run the jail, because the staffing situation is critical.

Respectfully submitted by members of the Grand Jury,

Rose Mary Sabo

[Signature]