

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

2023 SEP 15 AM 9:58

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**

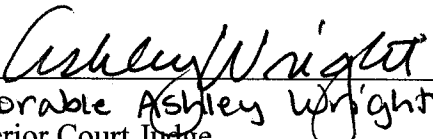
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE JULY TERM 2023

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the July Term 2023, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on September 15, 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 15th day of September 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Ashley Wright  
Superior Court Judge  
Augusta Judicial Circuit

## Sub-Committee Inspection Report for the Charles B. Webster Detention Center July Term 2023

During our inspection of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center on August 22, 2023, we had the opportunity to visit three of the nine housing pods as well as the laundry and food service areas. Cpl. Garganeous and Lt. Harrell were our escorts through the facility, and have more than 37 years combined experience working at the jail.

We were pleased to see that the laundry and food service facilities were immaculate and learned that the jail's food service areas received a score of 100 from the health department. Employees are fed free breakfast and lunch at the facility, as well. We also learned that the jail makes a full-time counselor available for any jail staff who are in crisis, whether by referral from a supervisor or on the individual's own initiative, and commend the county for providing these services to their employees.

We also have some concerns. Staffing is at critical levels while the jail is over capacity, and applicant turnover is high. Gang violence in the jail is a growing problem, but we learned that 99% of inmates report no gang affiliations during intake. Inmates have little to occupy their time; they have access to television, but the outdoor yards do not have benches and classes are offered only occasionally and without regularity. This is dangerous for both inmates and jail staff. We also noted that inmates do not have a way to ensure their personal laundry is returned to them and only receive clean clothing twice a week, which we felt was insufficient, particularly for undergarments.

Overall, our visit was excellent and our escorts were devoted, knowledgeable and professional. Based on our tour, we also have recommendations for the county:

- Prioritize staffing. Pay is competitive with similar positions in Columbia and Aiken Counties, but the county could consider using focus groups to identify other perks or benefits to make the jobs at the jail more attractive. Developing a marketing/recruitment strategy for persons in their 30s focusing on army retirees and displaced workers would also be useful.
- Enhance retention of staff. We applaud the jail for making a crisis counselor available, but note that this is a reactive, rather than preventative, measure to deal with employee stress and burnout. Having measures which prevent stress and burnout in addition to assisting staff who are in crisis would help to keep employees.
- Reduce the jail population. A significant factor in the number of housed inmates is court backlog. Hiring temporary court workers could resolve inmates' cases more swiftly.
- Reduce inmate idleness. Idleness often leads to trouble; consider making the outdoor areas appear more attractive and pleasant than custodial. Identify secure areas where inmates can go to read books that stay in that area to address safety concerns, rather than removing books from the facility altogether. Consider making job skills classes and activities more available by partnering with local technical schools or universities.
- Improve inmate hygiene. Consider providing inmates with laundry net bags to keep their personal laundry separate and make clean undergarments available more than twice per week.

Respectfully submitted by members of the Grand Jury,

*Alan Walker*     *Paul M. DeBell*     *G. Cory Owens*  
*9-15-23*     *Thomi Shivers*     *K. Ba*  
*Allen King*

TO: The Honorable Ashley Wright  
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury  
July Term 2023

DATE: September 15, 2023

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA  
2023 SEP 15 AM 9:53

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the July Term 2023, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Judge Ashley Wright on the 17th day of July 2023, submit our presentment on the 15th day of September 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. The applicable report is attached.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this Presentment on the 15th day of September 2023 and requests that it is published.

Denise D. Kornegay  
Denise Diane Kornegay, Foreperson

Brandy M. Aaron  
Brandy Machelie Aaron, Asst. Foreperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tawanika Darshae Cooper, Secretary

Willie L. White  
Willie L White

Yutaka Taylor  
Yutaka Taylor

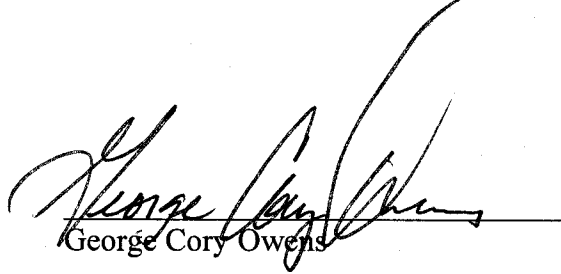
Tangela E. Jackson  
Tangela Evette Jackson

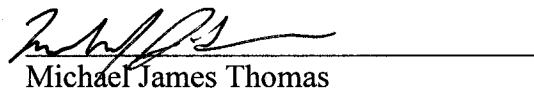
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Tanesheona Lashay Jarvis

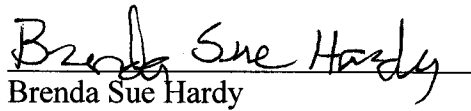
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Alanna Rouse Scott

E. Kealoha Rathe  
Emmajean Kealoha Rathe

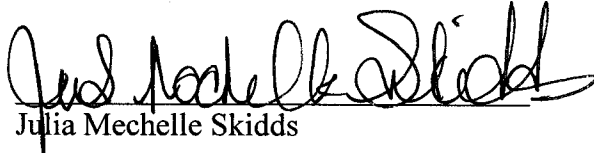
Bessie Mae Walton  
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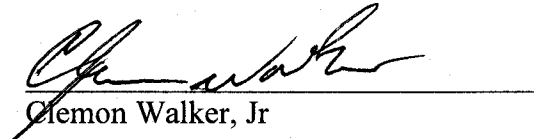
  
George Cory Owens

  
Michael James Thomas

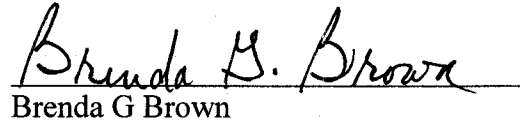
  
Brenda Sue Hardy


Terrence Andra Johnson, Jr


  
Julia Mechelle Skidds

  
Clemon Walker, Jr

Betty R Redd

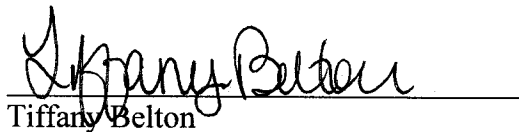
  
Brenda G Brown

  
Kimberly Durrence Baer

  
Crashadra Lashe Wilcher

  
Allen King

  
Thomi Marie Shiver

  
Tiffany Belton

Wesley Hunter Nutt, Alternate

Shandrell Wise Magee, Alternate

Michael David Merrill, Alternate