

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

2009 MAR 13 AM 9:26
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
AND JUVENILE COURT
FILED FOR RECORD
ELAINA G. JAMESON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

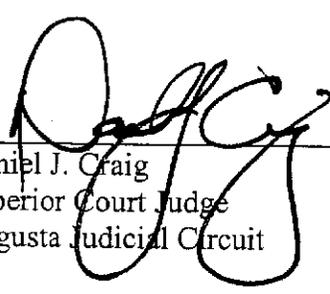
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE JANUARY TERM 2009

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the January Term 2009, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on March 13, 2009, 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 13th day of March 2009.



Daniel J. Craig
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable Daniel J. Craig
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
January Term 2009

DATE: March 13, 2009

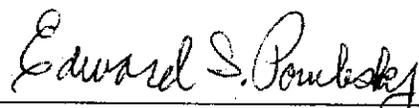
RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the January Term 2009, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Daniel J. Craig on the 20th day of January 2009, submit our presentment on the 13th day of March 2009, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

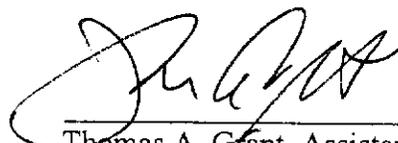
To discharge our sworn functions, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on eight (8) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictment presented to us by the District Attorney's Office. A Sub-Committee was formed to inspect the Augusta-Richmond County Law Enforcement Center; the report is attached.

The Grand Jury wishes to commend the District Attorney's Office and the law enforcement officers who presented the indictments. They were all very professional, knowledgeable and extremely helpful in explaining the intricacies of the law, making our deliberations much easier.

Respectfully, we submit this presentment on the 13th day of March 2009 and request that it be published.



Edward S. Porubsky, Foreperson

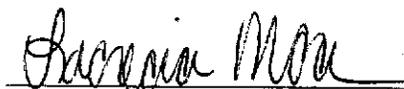


Thomas A. Grant, Assistant Foreperson

Mary Jane Clements, Secretary

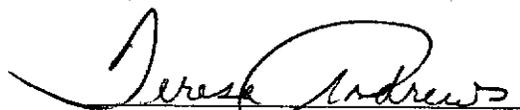


Samuel Howe



Lacreia Moore

Kevin Wilson



Teresa Andrews

Maxwell R. Smith

Robin Copeland

Lavonya Robinson

Lavonya Robinson

Brian Smith

Brian Smith

Donald Dorr

Donald Dorr

Mike Padgett

Mike Padgett

Martha Ellison

Martha Ellison

Deloris Parris

Deloris Parris

Ashley Patterson

Ashley Patterson

Mary L. West

Mary L. West

Anthony Cashin

Anthony Cashin

Ralph W. Holt

Ralph W. Holt

Theo Walker

Theo Walker

Alzater Johnson

Alzater Johnson

Linda M. Anderson

Linda M. Anderson

Coressa E. Roberts

Coressa E. Roberts

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JANUARY TERM 2009 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE RICHMOND COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

On February 24, 2009, the Sub-Committee of the January Term 2009 Grand Jury met with Major Gene Johnson at the Law Enforcement Center. He provided us with statistics including the budget, cost of medical and dental care, cost of providing subsistence for the inmates and an overview of the housing of the inmates according to the level of crime for which they are incarcerated.

We were then joined by Captain Bill Reeves and Sergeant West. All of the officials were very knowledgeable, cordial and forthright in answering the Sub-Committee's questions. One of the difficult problems they face is frequently moving inmates for safety reasons either due to one inmate testifying against another inmate or questionable "gang" activity. They expressed their concern in regard to overcrowding. On this date, there were 33 inmates sleeping on the floor which, in fact, was a relatively low number. We were told that they have 24-hour medical coverage on site. Psychiatric care is provided three times a week and dental care once a week. Any serious emergencies are handled at University Hospital.

We were then escorted to the dining facility and were served lunch by the trustees. The quantity and quality of the food was outstanding. We were told that the food services were provided by the trustees and the inmates were provided with three meals a day at a cost of approximately \$4.00 per day.

Following lunch, we were given a tour of the facility. We were impressed by the cleanliness; however, it was noted that many areas were in desperate need of painting and carpeting. It appeared that the officers were undermanned and overworked. One guard was stationed at each tower and responsible for two cell blocks – a daunting task.

Lastly, we had the opportunity to meet with Chief Deputy Sid Hatfield and Colonel Gary Powell. We, again, had a very frank discussion about personnel matters and the decaying physical conditions of the facility. Chief Deputy Hatfield was also very concerned about recruitment and retention of qualified officers. He said this can become a serious issue over the next number of years. At this particular time, there were 14 vacancies in the Sheriff's Department.

The Sheriff's Department indicated a need for an additional crime suppression unit consisting of ten officers and a supervisor. Given the increase in crime because of the recession, the Sheriff's request seems quite reasonable.

In view of the long-standing overcrowding at the jail, as well as the mold problem in the building which also affects the staff working there, it is imperative that the Augusta Commission move construction of new jail pods and new administrative facilities to the top of the city's priority list.

Sub-Committee Members: Donald Dorr, Thomas A. Grant, Edward S. Porubsky
and Corresa E. Roberts