

CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE  
AND JUVENILE COURT  
FILED FOR RECORD

2010 JUL 16 PM 3: 09

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY**

LAINE C. JOHNSON, CLERK  
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE MAY TERM 2010

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the May Term 2010, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on July 16, 2010, 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 16th day of July 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. David Roper  
Superior Court Judge  
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable J. David Roper  
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury  
May Term 2010

DATE: July 16, 2010

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the May Term 2010, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. David Roper on the 17th day of May 2010, submit our presentment on the 16th day of July 2010, 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.


Sub-Committees were formed to inspect the Richmond County Law Enforcement Center and the Mayor's Office; applicable reports are attached.


The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 16th day of July 2010 and requests that it is published.

  
Thomas H. Robertson, Foreperson

  
Mary A. McCormick, Asst. Foreperson

  
Jo Ester Hicks White, Secretary

  
Hardi L. Jones

  
Annette S. Dumais

  
Tameka Brown

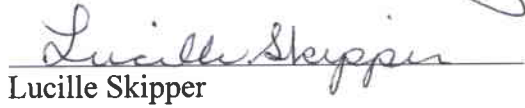
  
Jeanie Lewis

  
Sharon Ball

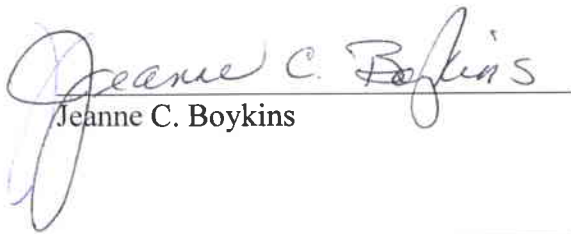
  
Gregory Cosby

  
William Meredith

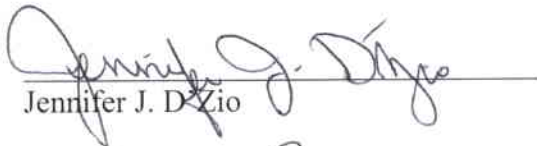
  
Brandy Frailes

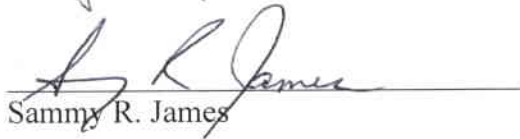
  
Lucille Skipper

  
Willie Morning

  
Jeanne C. Boykins

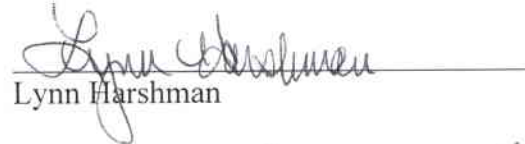
Valencia Faye Walker

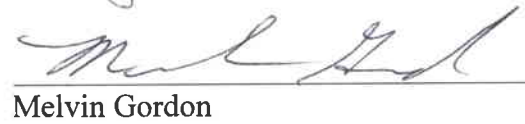
  
Jennifer J. D'Zio

  
Sammy R. James

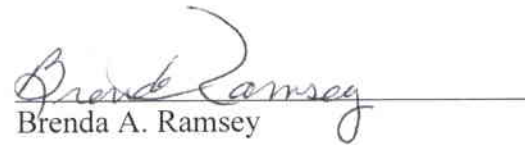
  
David Gray

  
Janice Beauchamp

  
Lynn Harshman

  
Melvin Gordon

  
Iris Angel Little

  
Brenda A. Ramsey

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MAY TERM 2010 GRAND JURY  
REPORT ON THE RICHMOND COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

On June 5, 2010, a Sub-Committee from the Richmond County Grand Jury May Term 2010 toured the Richmond County Law Enforcement Center located at 401 Walton Way in Augusta, Georgia.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by Major William Johnson and Captain Bill Reeves who oversee daily operations. Both gentlemen provided background information about the facility. The medical contract costs four million dollars annually. Last year, \$610,000 was spent on food alone. With the daily cost to house an inmate at \$47.00, they do what they can to keep the jail population down. The budget was cut to \$500,000 which makes it even more difficult to manage. The facility can house 358 inmates; 330 were there on the day we visited. The jail staff processes an average of 45 to 50 arrests per day. Since mental institutions are being shut down, jails have had to take over housing those with mental issues. The facility houses violent offenders awaiting trial or pending transfer into the State of Georgia prison system.

We began our tour by having lunch in the employee cafeteria. The food was good and had been prepared in the same kitchen and by the same inmates who cook for all inmates in this facility. We were told that the inmates who work in the kitchen are given a thorough medical examination before being allowed to work in the kitchen. Once approved, the kitchen workers are housed in a separate area away from the general jail population so they will not contract any infections from the other prisoners. The inmates are served three meals a day at a cost of approximately \$4.00 per day.

The specific areas visited included Booking, Fingerprinting, Bond Area, Property Room, Cells and Dental Area. We also toured the medical areas and the cell tower for "special needs" inmates as well as the floors for regular inmates. It seems to be a lot on one tower officer since he or she is responsible for watching both sides of the cell's floor. We toured the fourth floor cell blocks and observed the central observation room from a vantage point within. From that distance, the shower rooms in the western cell block had dark stains on the ceiling and around the doors that might be mold or mildew. This situation needs to be investigated and, if needed, corrected.

We were then given a tour of the administration offices and concluded our tour in Colonel Gary Powell's office. There was evidence of water damage, especially around the window where the paint was peeling. This is the portion of the building that is moldy. Employee shortages were also discussed.

Respectfully submitted by the following Sub-Committee Members:

Janice Beauchamp  
Jeanne C. Boykins

Sammy R. James  
Mary A. McCormick

Thomas H. Robertson  
Jo Ester Hicks White

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MAY TERM 2010 GRAND JURY  
REPORT ON THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

On June 29, 2010, five representatives of the Grand Jury inspected Mayor Deke Copenhaver's Office. The Mayor was very receptive and honored by the visit because this was the first time a Grand Jury has called on him.

The duties of the Mayor are to serve as CEO of the city, enforce the laws of the city, sign legal documents and work with the Augusta-Richmond County Commissioners.

Having asked the Mayor what he would like to see changed about the way the city government is run, he stated the following:

- a. The city needs an administrator with centralized power. This office would run day-to-day operations.
- b. A stronger management form of government would serve the community better than the present system when it comes to dealing with personnel matters. The present system is run by the city administrator.
- c. There are 2,700 employees on staff. The Commission should only be in charge of department heads/policy makers and not making day-to-day personnel decisions.
- d. Presently, the Mayor can vote when there is a tie. He would like his office to have the same right to vote as the Commissioners.
- e. The city needs a media person and a public relations person.

Additional comments were:

- a. Economic development is very competitive.
- b. The Commissioners' Retreat has been successful and drawn the group closer. There has been less disruption/stress on the administration.
- c. The Mayor's Office works with Fred Russell, City Administrator, on a daily basis.
- d. The Mayor distributes a weekly update by e-mail to approximately 10,000 people. This information is also available to the general public.
- e. The Commissioners'/Mayor's Meeting has been moved to 5:00 p.m. This allows the community to attend this one-hour meeting.

- f. The Library and Tee Center are new investments with positive effects for the city. The possibility of a new baseball stadium is another. This structure would be more than just a stadium; it would house other businesses that are not necessarily sports related.
- g. The Charter needs to be updated because the present City Administrator is not mentioned in the current one.
- h. Elected officials are responsible for educating the community.

Respectfully submitted by the following Sub-Committee Members:

Jeanne C. Boykins  
Hardi L. Jones  
Mary A. McCormick  
Thomas H. Robertson  
Lucille Skipper