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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY

ELAINE C. JOHNSON, CLERK  
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

STATE OF GEORGIA

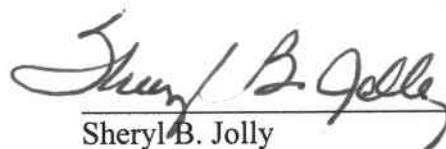
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE MARCH TERM 2011

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the March Term 2011, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on May 13, 2011, 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 May 2011.



Sheryl B. Jolly  
Superior Court Judge  
Augusta Judicial Circuit

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH TERM 2011 GRAND JURY  
REPORT ON THE RICHMOND COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER**

On April 26, 2011, a Sub-Committee of the Richmond County Grand Jury, March Term 2011 inspected the Richmond County Jail (RCJ) at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) located at 401 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia 30901.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by Captain William H. "Bill" Reeves. Captain Reeves, a native Augustan and a 1991 graduate of Georgia Southern University, oversees the day-to-day operations of the RCJ. Designed and constructed in 1986 to hold approximately 358 inmates, the RCJ currently houses over 530 inmates per day. The majority of the jail population is male. The RCJ maintains a small female population residing in a special-needs\_medical unit. The RCJ maintains a modern booking and release section which facilitates the processing of approximately 18,000 arrestees per year. Captain Reeves supervises 110 sworn and civilian employees and works hand-in-hand with local court systems on the State, Superior and Federal levels.

Prior to conducting our inspection, we met in the Jail Administration Conference Room. During our tour, Captain Reeves introduced us to his supervisor, Major William E. "Gene" Johnson. Major Johnson, a 1983 graduate of the FBI National Academy, has been employed by the Richmond County sheriff's Office for 43 years. He served as a Captain in Jail Administration for 24 years. During his tenure as Captain, he was in charge of the day-to-day operations of the RCJ. Major Johnson now oversees all operations of the RCJ and the Charles B. Webster Detention Center (CBWDC) at 1941 Phinzy Road in South Augusta. The CBWDC opened in 1997 and was designed to alleviate the overcrowding at the RCJ. A security staff of 100 sworn and civilian employees maintains the 552-bed facility with a daily inmate population now exceeding 650 per day. The majority of female inmates incarcerated in Richmond County are housed at the CBWDC.

Captain Reeves emphasized they regularly exceed the 910-bed combined capacity of the two jails by as much as 100 or more inmates. The CBWDC is nearing completion of Phase I of a three-phase SPLOST-funded expansion of the Richmond County Jail system. Phase I consists of the construction of a 176-bed pod, a 144-bed pod and a 140-bed medical pod at the Phinzy Road facility. By the end of Summer 2011, all inmates are to be moved to the CBWDC. This expansion will require hiring and training of 30 new deputies during April and May. The new deputies must complete a two-week jailer course prior to the end of Summer opening.

The RCJ will continue to operate as an intake, release and overnight incarceration facility, but the overcrowding problem will be alleviated. Jail Administration will remain at 401 Walton Way until the completion of Phase II of the SPLOST funding. Phase II is projected for completion in 2014 at a cost of \$40-50 million and will move booking and release and law enforcement operations to CBWDC. Phase III will include an additional 260-bed pod at the CBWDC and demolition of the LEC (completion date TBD).

Major Johnson said a reduction in state prison facilities is the largest contributing factor to the jail overcrowding as evidenced by the RCJ and the CBWDC housing over 250 state prisoners awaiting transfer into the state prison system. He emphasized that as long as the State of Georgia continues to close facilities, it will put pressure on the jails. He also mentioned that the State only reimbursed Richmond County \$22/day and the cost to house an inmate exceeds \$47/day. The State is transferring the financial burden of housing its prison population to local government. Another contributor to local overcrowding is the reduction in State mental hospital beds. He stated that Georgia Regional Hospital in Augusta only has 18 beds for inmates with mental issues and the State Mental Hospital in Milledgeville is no longer accepting inmates.

After our initial briefing, Captain Reeves escorted us to the RCJ laundry where all the inmates' laundry (bedding, clothing and shoes) is washed and dried. After the laundry, we were taken to the officers and staff cafeteria. We were served a choice of fried, BBQ or baked chicken and a choice of 6 vegetables, biscuits, tossed salad with three dressing choices and banana pudding. We were offered iced tea (sweetened or unsweetened), lemonade, water or coffee to drink. The food was tasty and of high quality. Captain Reeves stated that we were eating the same food the inmates are served (with the exception of bones which can be used as weapons). The kitchen workers are all inmates hand selected by Captain Reeves or Major Johnson based on the inmates' good behavior. They must pass a complete health screening and physical (including HIV blood work-up and other health screenings). The kitchen inmates are housed on the first-floor pod across from the kitchen so they are not exposed to inmates with health problems. Captain Reeves boasted that his kitchen staff is healthier than many local restaurants' staff.

After lunch, we inspected the medical pod which houses the female inmates with medical issues and a separate pod for mentally unstable male inmates under "suicide watch." The medical pod has round-the-clock nursing staff. A physician makes daily rounds. A psychiatrist is on call as needed.

We visited the booking and release area where inmates are photographed and electronically fingerprinted. The inmates are banded with various colored identification bands which denote whether they are incarcerated for a felony, misdemeanor or have violent tendencies. The booking and release area is transferring to a totally electronic system to allow for faster processing of inmates. All inmates can be viewed on the city's website's "inmate inquiry" at: <http://appweb2.augustaga.gov/InmateInquiry/AlatInmatesOnline.aspx>.

Captain Reeves stressed that with increased gang problems in Richmond County, known members of gangs are kept together in pods. This is done to diminish outbreaks of violence among the inmates. As of this summer, the RCJ and the CBWDC are going to a commissary system for inmates to get toiletries, t-shirts, underwear, snacks and soft drinks. This new system will keep money out of the hands of inmates. Families will be able to put money into an inmate's account by telephone or by going on-line. When an inmate is released he/she will be given a debit card with the remainder of the money in their account. This will need to be cashed out shortly after release.

We met briefly with Chief Deputy Sid Hatfield in his office. He thanked us for service on the Grand Jury. He stated that this is a dangerous and violent time for law enforcement. He said

that his officers are daily encountering less respect for authority, more violence and unpredictability on the streets than ever before. His office has had to deal with monetary and personnel cutbacks. His department has to do more with less. We agreed with his assessment and thanked him for his department's high degree of professionalism and "restraint" shown by his officers and investigators who have testified before the Grand Jury. We thanked him for all his department does to protect Richmond County. We wished him a Happy Birthday.

Sub-Committee Members:

Teresa Ann Lucas  
Donald Dorr  
Anthony Bela Farkas  
Freddie H. Philpot  
Margaret Roberts  
Mary Krom Sahn

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH TERM 2011 GRAND JURY  
REPORT ON THE RICHMOND COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES FACILITY**

A Sub-Committee of the Richmond County Grand Jury visited the Animal Services Facility on Tuesday afternoon, April 26, 2011. Ms. Sharon Broady, Director, met with the Sub-Committee and provided information on their operation and hosted a tour of the facility.

The facility located on Mack Lane (Tobacco Road) consists of offices, kennels, a quarantine area and holding pens.

In addition to Ms. Broady, other employees include the kennel manager, road supervisor, seven animal control officers and eight kennel staff. The facility handled over 5,000 animals in 2010; 50% were dogs and slightly more were cats. The other animals were a variety – ostriches, horses, cows and even wild animals which are usually the responsibility of Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Animals are brought to the facility and separated. They are first held in quarantine and then put into permanent kennels for adoption or returned to their owners. Candidates for adoption are held until someone pays a fee to adopt them; the animals are neutered prior to release.

Additional services include providing traps for nuisance animals and removal of dead animals from roads. In animal-bite cases, animals are kept for a specific quarantine period.

The impression gained from the visit is that this is a well-operated facility. It is clean, well maintained and organized for its functions. Ms. Broady indicated that she felt confident in serving the County's citizens and their needs in this area. All of the staff was courteous and professional – operating in a facility that reflects well on Richmond County.

Sub-Committee Members:

David Charles Jenkins  
Kathryn April Parrish  
Clemestine R Williams  
Frank Zabala, Jr.

TO: The Honorable Sheryl B. Jolly  
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury  
March Term 2011

DATE: May 13, 2011

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

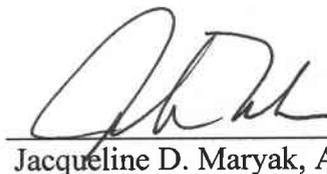
We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the March Term 2011, having been duly sworn by the Honorable James G. Blanchard, Jr. on the 21st day of March 2011, submit our presentment on the 13th day of May 2011, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

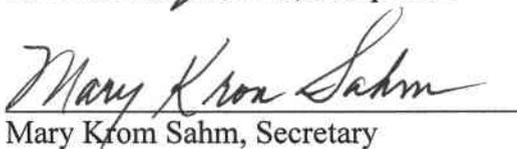
To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on seven (7) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

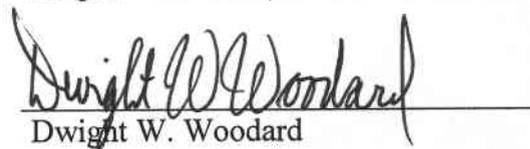
Sub-Committees were formed to inspect the Richmond County Law Enforcement Center and Animal Services; applicable reports are attached.

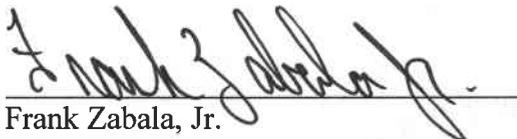
The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 13th day of May 2011 and requests that it is published.

  
David Charles Jenkins, Foreperson

  
Jacqueline D. Maryak, Asst. Foreperson

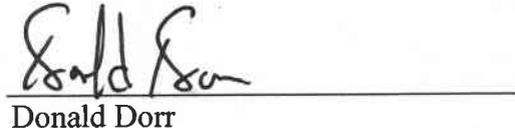
  
Mary Krom Sahn, Secretary

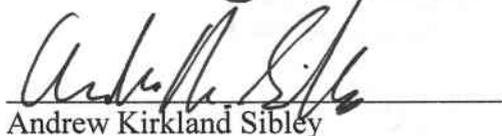
  
Dwight W. Woodard

  
Frank Zabala, Jr.

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Lisa Wetherington Smith

  
Teresa J. Andrews

  
Donald Dorr

  
Andrew Kirkland Sibley

  
Sandra Davis Stevenson

Margaret A. Roberts  
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Freddie H. Philpot

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Maggie S. McDonald  
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Lamyria Ganay Bowman  
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Karen M. Jones  
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Frances S. Upton  
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Kathryn April Parrish

Frances S. Upton  
J. D. Williams  
FRANCES S. UPTON

Clemestine R. Williams  
Clemestine R. Williams

Irene Tutt Jones  
Irene Tutt Jones

Matthew H. Carroll  
Matthew H. Carroll

Anthony Bela Farkas