

CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE
AND JUVENILE COURT
FILED FOR RECORD

2011 SEP 16 AM 11:34

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

D. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

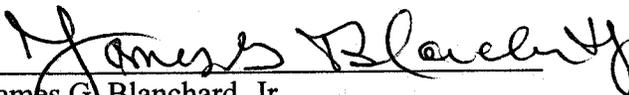
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE JULY TERM 2011

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the July Term 2011, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on September 16, 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 16th day of September 2011.


James G. Blanchard, Jr.
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable James G. Blanchard, Jr.
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
July Term 2011

DATE: September 16, 2011

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

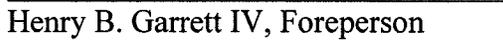
We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the July Term 2011, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Sheryl B. Jolly on the 18th day of July 2011, submit our presentment on the 16th day of September 2011, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

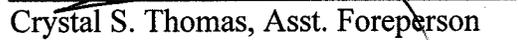
To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on nine (9) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

A Sub-Committee was formed to inspect the Richmond County Law Enforcement Center; the report is attached.

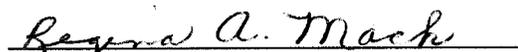
In addition to our assigned duties, this Grand Jury appointed one individual as a member to the Board of Equalization. The report is also attached.

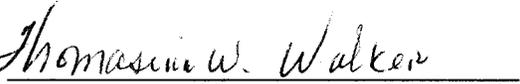
The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 16th day of September 2011 and requests that it is published.

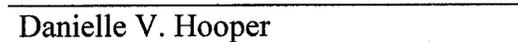

Henry B. Garrett IV, Foreperson


Crystal S. Thomas, Asst. Foreperson

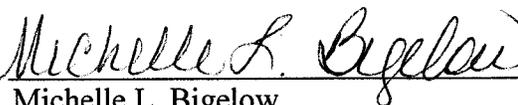

Keysha L. Hodge, Secretary


Regina A. Mack

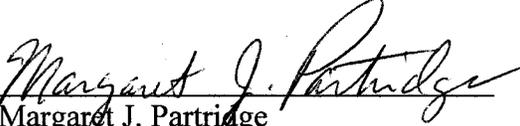

Thomasina W. Walker

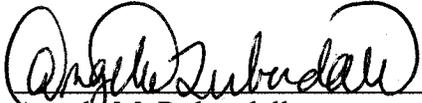

Danielle V. Hooper


Tiaria Harris


Michelle L. Bigelow

Kathryn M. Martin


Margaret J. Partridge

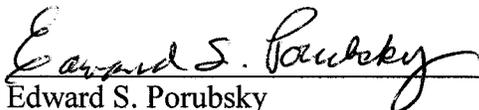

Angela M. Rubendall

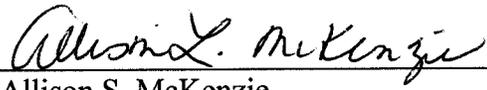

Kelvin Johnson

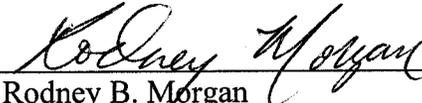

Richard J. Taylor

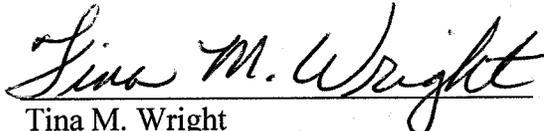
Vickie S. Wheeler

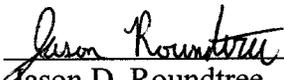

Carter T. Benson

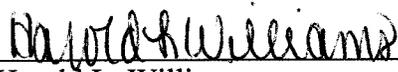

Edward S. Porubsky

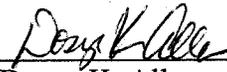

Allison S. McKenzie

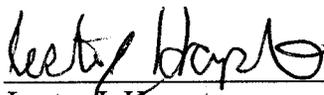

Rodney B. Morgan


Tina M. Wright


Jason D. Roundtree


Harold L. Williams


Dosye K. Allen


Lester S. Hampton

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

On August 23, 2011, a Sub-Committee of the Richmond County Grand Jury, July Term 2011, inspected the Richmond County Jail (RCJ) at the Law Enforcement Center located at 401 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia 30901.

Upon arriving to the RCJ, we were greeted by Captain William "Bill" Reeves. Captain Reeves, a graduate of Georgia Southern University, oversees the daily operations of the RCJ. After our greeting, we were escorted to lunch provided by the trustees of the RCJ. Our lunch consisted of our choice of barbeque, fried, or baked chicken, a variety of vegetables, biscuits, tossed salad with choice of salad dressing, fruit and banana pudding. We were also offered water, ice tea (sweetened or unsweetened), lemonade or coffee. We were informed that the trustees handle the cooking and laundry duties of the entire jail. These inmates are handpicked by Captain Reeves for these particular duties based on their good behavior. The inmates reside in a separate location from the other inmates to maintain the health and well being of all inmates and visitors to the jail. The trustees are non-violent offenders and are subjected to physicals and thorough health screenings in order to serve in that capacity.

After our lunch, we were introduced to Major William E. "Gene" Johnson during our tour of the facility. He is the supervisor for Captain Reeves and has been employed with Richmond County Sheriff's Office for over 40 years. He now oversees all operations of the RCJ and the Charles B. Webster Detention Center on Phinizy Road in South Augusta. The RCJ was designed and constructed in 1986 to hold approximately 358 inmates. It is currently over capacity, but this issue will be alleviated upon the completed expansion of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. Some of the overcrowding issue can be attributed to the closing of state mental hospitals and a reduction in the state prison facilities. The expansion will take place in three phases and upon completion of Phase III, the current location of the Law Enforcement Center will be demolished. The administrative duties of the jail will be housed on a lot located across from the current RCJ location. The new building will house the administrative offices along with a crime lab.

After enjoying lunch, we inspected one of the pods in the jail. Each floor of the jail has the same general format as the floor the Sub-Committee visited. The majority of the jail population is male; however, a small female population is housed at the facility. The females reside in the special-needs medical unit. There is also a specialized pod that houses mentally unstable inmates and those with physical handicaps. The majority of female inmate population is housed at the Charles B. Webster Detention Center.

We toured the booking and release area where inmates are processed. They are photographed and fingerprints are taken electronically. The booking and release processes are separated and will be transferring to a complete electronic system to allow for faster processing. Upon booking an inmate, their personal property is sealed and locked away. Any money is deposited into a kiosk-like machine which loads the monetary amount onto a debit card for the inmate. There is also a new commissary system coming in which inmates may purchase toiletry items, undergarments, snacks and soft drinks. The new system will provide each inmate with a card that will be scanned to purchase items. Family members of each inmate can load money

into the inmate's account by phone or on-line; cash will no longer be in the hands of inmates through this new system.

The medical care given to inmates at RCJ is very top notch. There is staff on call to assist with the medical needs of inmates along with a dentist. There is a psychiatrist on call as needed for inmates as well. The new expansion of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center will house more state-of-the-art equipment for the medical needs of each inmate.

Toward the end of the tour, we met with Chief Deputy Sid Hatfield in his office. Chief Hatfield oversees the administrative side of the RCJ. He explained to us how this is a strenuous time for law enforcement in that they are forced to do more with less. His office is dealing with personnel and financial cutbacks. He thanked us for our service on the Grand Jury and extended an invitation for us to ride along on patrol with a deputy. We thanked him for the invitation and he informed us that his office was always open to us for any questions or concerns.

Sub-Committee Members

Michelle L. Bigelow
Keysha L. Hodge
Allison S. McKenzie
Margaret J. Partridge
Angela M. Rubendall
Thomasina W. Walker