

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE
AND JUVENILE COURT
FILED FOR RECORD
2012 JAN 13 AM 10:16
ELAINE C. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.


IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER TERM 2011

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the November Term 2011, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on January 13, 2012, 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 January 2012.



J. David Roper
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

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

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
November Term 2011

DATE: January 13, 2012

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the November Term 2011, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. David Roper on the 21st day of November 2011, submit our presentment on the 13th day of January 2012, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

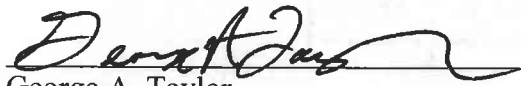
To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on seven (7) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

Sub-Committees were formed to inspect the Richmond County Emergency Operation Center and the Charles B. Webster Detention Center; reports are attached.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 13th day of January 2012 and requests that it is published.

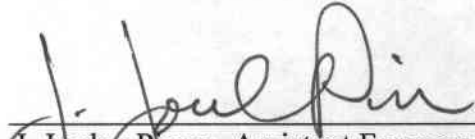
Edwin L. Douglass, Jr., Foreperson

John C. Huffman, Secretary

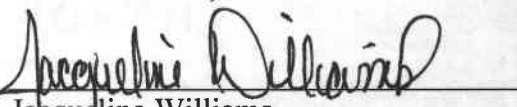

George A. Taylor


Cinmine M. Cox

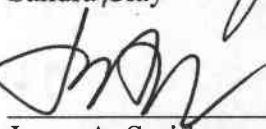
James M. Kelley


J. Jordan Pierce, Assistant Foreperson

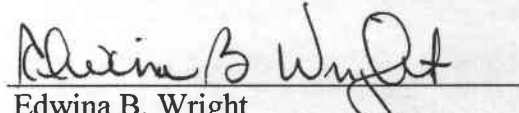

Carl E. Goodman

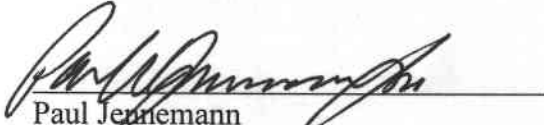

Jacqueline Williams

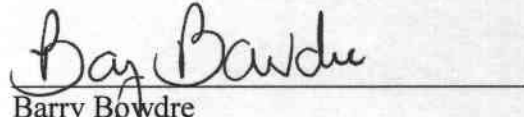

Sandra Clay


Jason A. Smith

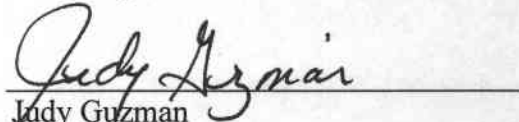

Webster L. Harris


Edwina B. Wright

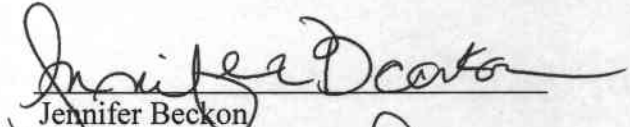

Paul Jennemann


Barry Bowdre

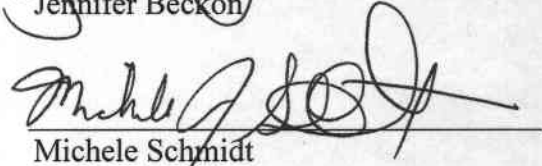

Mike Lawver



Judy Guzman


Langston Carpenter

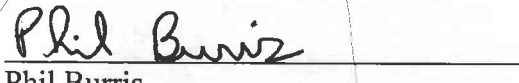

Jennifer Beckon


Steffany Simpkins


Michele Schmidt


Scott MacGregor


Terry Elam


Phil Burris

SMITHWORTH

257. Cotton Fiber

DIAMOND
WHITE

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NOVEMBER TERM 2011 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (EOC)**

The Sub-Committee Members arrived at approximately 12:15 p.m. on December 13, 2011 and were greeted at the front entrance by Dominick Nutter, 911 Call Center Director.

After Mr. Nutter's introduction and tour of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), we were introduced to Ms. Sharon Bennett, EOC Director. Ms. Bennett informed the Sub-Committee of who the First Responders are and how they react/respond to different types of disasters. According to Ms. Bennett, decisions to notify schools and local shelters would be determined by the First Responders whenever necessary. Ms. Bennett stated a new communications system is needed and will be in place soon.

Mr. Nutter provided the Sub-Committee with a tour of the 911 Call Center. During the tour, Mr. Nutter informed the Sub-Committee of the duties of each operator and each operator responded to a call and procedures which must be performed. According to Mr. Nutter, turnover time for an operator has not been a major concern due to staffing; however, there is much-needed improvement for communications upgrades and operational space. Mr. Nutter advised these upgrades are scheduled for the distant future due to budget cuts and the slow-developing economy. Mr. Nutter also stated that each 911 operator receives all necessary training and education before and after the operator is able to respond to a call.

After touring the 911 Call Center, Mr. Nutter released the Sub-Committee at approximately 1:30 p.m. to exit the building.

Sub-Committee Members

Phil Burris
Webster L. Harris
Mike Lawver
Michele Schmidt
Steffany Simpkins
George A. Taylor

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NOVEMBER TERM 2011 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER

On the afternoon of December 13, 2011, a six-member Sub-Committee of the November Term 2011 Grand Jury inspected the Charles B. Webster Detention Center located at 1941 Phinizy Road in Augusta, Georgia 30906. We were greeted by Major William E. Johnson and Captain Chester V. Huffman, Jr., of the Richmond County Sheriff's Department (RCSD), who provided a brief history of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center (WDC).

Afterwards and upon receiving our visitor's passes, the inspection began with a visit to the dining hall for lunch. We found this area to be clean and it appeared to be operated in an orderly and efficient manner. The food, prepared by inmate labor, was excellent and very nourishing. After lunch, Sub-Committee members were given a lengthy tour of the WDC by Major Johnson and Captain Huffman.

The WDC was last inspected in 2009. Our Sub-Committee's inspection is important because we were the first Sub-Committee to visit the WDC since completion of its Phase I expansion. We were escorted to the new F Pod and allowed to take a closer look at cells and common areas prior to the housing of inmates. The new F Pod is scheduled to accept inmates sometime in 2012. It is important to note that the WDC is located on fifty-two acres which will allow it to potentially meet Richmond County's correctional needs into the year 2030 and beyond. With the pending closure of the 401 Walton Way Jail and the on-going transfer of inmates to the WDC, capacity continues to be a concern to the RCSD at the WDC. For now, the Phase I expansion seems to be working quite well. The Sub-Committee also inspected the Medical Mental Health (MMH) Pod which was found to be clean and efficiently operated. The inmates we observed housed in the MMH Pod appeared to be treated well. At the MMH Pod, Sub-Committee members were able to see how, through the use of new technology, the WDC is efficiently managing its large inmate population. It is evident, from our inspection, that the Phase I expansion of the WDC will greatly improve the ability of the RCSD to operate and manage this Richmond County facility which is so vital to our community.

In addition to the physical walkthrough inspection, there are two noteworthy improvements that are being implemented at the WDC - the Visitor's Center and the Kiosk Commisary. First, the Visitor's Center will allow visitors and inmates to communicate in a more secure and improved manner. Secondly, the Kiosk Commisary will make managing inmate resources more secure, efficient and cost effective.

Overall, the Charles B. Webster Detention Center appears to be operated and managed very well by the Richmond County Sheriff's Department. The initial Phase I expansion reveals significant improvements in the general operation of the WDC as well as overall inmate quality of life. Concerns, however, still remain such as maintaining federally-mandated inmate population levels, the ability of the RCSD to effectively operate the WDC during this time of economic decline and the subsequent shrinking of Richmond County tax revenue. For now, the RCSD is fulfilling a vital role for our community at the WDC.

In closing, the Sub-Committee would like to thank Major William E. Johnson and Captain Chester V. Huffman, Jr. for taking time from their busy schedules to accommodate our inspection. Their assistance was both informative during the Sub-Committee inspection and a benefit to the the citizens of Richmond County whom we serve. We would also like to thank the men and women of the Richmond County Sheriff's Department for their courtesy and professionalism while we conducted our inspection.

Sub-Committee Members

Barry Bowdre
Edwin L. Douglass, Jr.
Judy Guzman
John C. Huffman
Paul Jennemann
Jacqueline Williams
Edwina B. Wright