

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

CLARE G. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

2012 NOV 16 AM 10:57

BK 3, p. 1191-1196
CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE
AND JUVENILE COURT
FILED FOR RECORD

IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE SEPTEMBER TERM 2012

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the September Term 2012, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on November 16, 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 16th day of November 2012.



Michael N. Annis
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable Michael N. Annis
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
September Term 2012

DATE: November 16, 2012

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

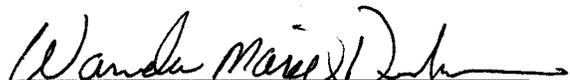
We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the September Term 2012, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Michael N. Annis on the 17th day of September 2012, submit our presentment on the 16th day of November 2012, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on 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 Board of Education, Charles B. Webster Detention Center, and Augusta-Richmond County's Procurement Department; reports are attached.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 16th day of November 2012 and requests that it is published.


Gloria T. Alexander, Foreperson

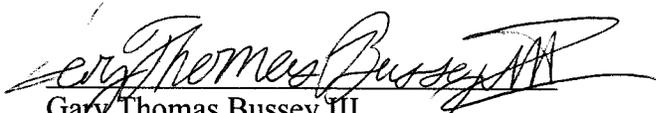

Wanda Marie Dunbar, Asst. Foreperson


Samantha Nicole Powell, Secretary

Mallory Helene Heffner


Glenn Dale Lanier

Charles Ryan Corley


Gary Thomas Bussey III

Steven Paul Roberts


Tia Jane Michelle Johnson

Janet Sue Thornburg

M. Zecharias
Miriam Zecharias

Barry Rex Garman

Ralph Brooks Scurry, Jr.

Gwendolyn D. Williams
Gwendolyn D. Williams

Angela Susan Lowe
Angela Susan Lowe

Francis Stephens Johnson
Francis Stephens Johnson

Irene Stringer Combs
Irene Stringer Combs

Mary Van Horn Lariscy
Mary Van Horn Lariscy

Tarvia Lafoye Harris
Tarvia Lafoye Harris

Michelle Myhien Tran
Michelle Myhien Tran

James Lester Center
James Lester Center

Jean Marie Callaway

Annie Ruth Powell
Annie Ruth Powell

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SEPTEMBER TERM 2012 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER

An eight-member Sub-Committee from the September 2012 Grand Jury visited and toured the Charles B. Webster Detention Center located at 1941 Phinizy Road in Augusta, Georgia on September 25, 2012. Captain Chester V. Huffman guided the Sub-Committee through the tour of the Detention Center.

The Detention Center has been open since November 17, 1997. A transition is almost complete for transferring all activities of the Detention Center from 401 Walton Way (the Richmond County Jail) to the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. All that remains at the Walton Way location is the booking. Sometime in the near future, these activities will be moved to the new facility.

The Detention Center is equipped with many security and surveillance features. A double-lock door system requires the first door a person comes through to close (and locks automatically) before the next door opens. The doors are controlled by a guard. There are also cameras located all over the facility. The guards work in 12-hour shifts.

The facility also has on-site medical services for the inmates: medical, dental and psychiatric care is available. Inmates are provided access to a commissary for items they may wish to purchase (tobacco, over-the-counter medicines, toiletries, snacks, etc.).

The inmates receive breakfast, a bag lunch and dinner at the facility. Some inmates help prepare and serve the meals for the employees of the Detention Center.

The main area causing concern for the facility is the salary. At the time of the Sub-Committee's visit, 30 positions were available at the Detention Center. Because of the high turnover rate and low salary, these positions are hard to keep filled. The Detention Center trains deputies only to have them transfer or move to another area for a higher salary. This creates issues for the Detention Center; the deputies train new employees and, after becoming accustomed to the job, they find a similar job for a better salary. The Sub-Committee suggests a higher salary for the deputies at the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. A higher salary would contribute to more retention of the staff, more experienced staff, a safer environment for the staff and more efficient use of taxpayer money.

Sub-Committee Members

Gloria T. Alexander
Wanda Marie Dunbar
Mallory Helene Heffner
Tia Jane Michelle Johnson
Angela Susan Lowe
Samantha Nicole Powell
Gwendolyn D. Williams
Mariam Zecharias

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SEPTEMBER TERM 2012 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On Tuesday, October 16, 2012, Sub-Committee Members from the September Term 2012 Grand Jury met with the individuals named below at the Board of Education Office located on Broad Street in Downtown Augusta.

Superintendent – Dr. Frank Roberson
Attorney – Pete Fletcher
Executive Director of Student Services – Dr. Carol Rountree
Deputy Superintendent – Tim Spivey
Chief Human Resources Officer – Norman Hill
Senior Director Budgets – C. Gene Spires
Executive Director for Middle Schools – Dr. Virginia Bradshaw

The twice-daily transportation of 25,000 students went extremely well this year having implemented a new system that proved to be very effective.

Recognized is the challenge of education with less and less funds. In 2003, federal funds were cut three million dollars; in 2004, the cut was seven million dollars and the current 2012-13 school year has a 22-million dollar cut. Local dollars remain somewhat consistent. They feel their revenue commitment strategy is recovery by not spending.

Their objective is to keep class size at a reasonable number. By law, they have plus four which enables them to increase size.

They are working to keep schools at 85% capacity.

In regard to SPLOST spending, there is a strategic plan for renovations and new construction. These are “pay as you go” projects driven by community citizens and Board of Education staff. Millions of dollars are being spent on local schools, e.g. Butler, Glenn Hills High, Laney, Westside, Langford Middle, Murphey Middle and Lake Forest Hills Elementary.

Implementing and offering exceptional programs, such as the International Baccalaureate Program and additional programs, at vocational schools.

There has been improvement in CRCT scores, a 25-point gain in SAT scores and an increase in ACT scores.

The Board of Education's administration recognizes the importance of the community supporting their students and families. They spoke about wrap-around services for socialization through establishments in the community, such as churches, becoming engaged to help strengthen families and help develop a positive image of public schools and to support our educators.

Sub-Committee Members

Gloria T. Alexander
Gary Thomas Bussey III
Wanda Marie Dunbar
Angela Susan Lowe
Janet Sue Thornburg
Gwendolyn D. Williams

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SEPTEMBER TERM 2012 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY
PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT**

On October 9, 2012, a Sub-Committee of the September Term 2012 Grand Jury visited the Procurement Department at the Municipal Building on Greene Street. We met with Ms. Geri Sams and other staff members. We found the offices to be neat and well-organized and personnel to be alert, well-informed and cooperative.

We thoroughly examined all aspects of purchasing by the Department and fully determined that their policies are fair and result in the best possible prices for the citizens of Richmond County.

We noted that a staff member from the Procurement Department attends most meetings of the Augusta-Richmond County Commission. We also noted that staff members are currently involved in the transfer of all records into computer records. This is taking significant time and effort.

We were entirely satisfied with the operation of this Department and found no flaws.

Respectfully submitted by the
Sub-Committee Members

Gloria J. Alexander

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