

CLERK OF SUPERIOR STATE
AND JUDICIAL COURT
FILED FOR RECORD

2013 JAN 18 AM 11:24

ELAHEE JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

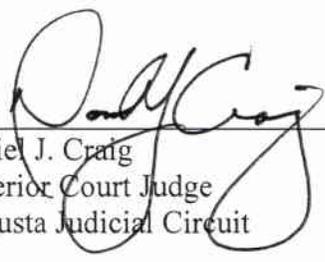
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER TERM 2012

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the November Term 2012, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on January 18, 2013, 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 18th day of January 2013.



Daniel J. Craig
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable Daniel J. Craig
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
November Term 2012

DATE: January 18, 2013

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the November Term 2012, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. Wade Padgett on the 18th day of November 2012, submit our presentment on the 18th day of January 2013, 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 eight (8) 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 Charles B. Webster Detention Center and the Augusta-Richmond County Tax Commissioner's Office; reports are attached.

In addition to our assigned duties, this Grand Jury appointed three individuals as members to the Board of Equalization. The report is attached.

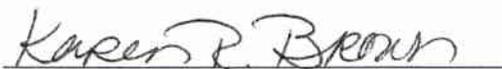
The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 18th day of January 2013 and requests that it is published.



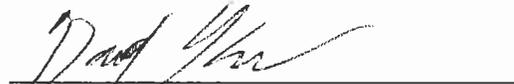
Thomas Martin Bird, Foreperson



Jerry D. Akin, Assistant Foreperson



Karen R. Brown, Secretary



David Thomas Kaplan

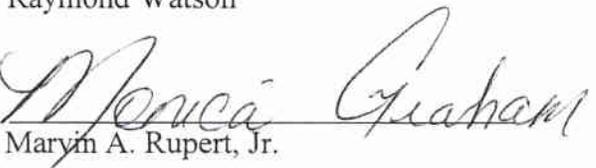
Kejuana Neferteri Dunbar



Raymond Watson



William Thomas Mills



Maryin A. Rupert, Jr.

Cindy Beard Smith

Cindy Beard Smith

Marie T. Killips

Marie T. Killips

Victor R. Loftiss

Victor Riggs Loftiss

Sherrie S. Hanks

Sherrie S. Hanks

Robert L. Cooper

Robert Lee Cooper

Ronald Owen McDearis

Ronald Owen McDearis

William Dales Brown, Jr.

William Dales Brown, Jr.

Beverly N. Mickens

Beverly N. Mickens

Bruce A. Reeves

Bruce A. Reeves

Crystal Nicole Butler

Crystal Nicole Butler

Monica Cave Graham

Monica Cave Graham

Desmond C. Wilder

Desmond C. Wilder

Morris Walter Fetzer

Morris Walter Fetzer

John Henry Lambright, Jr.

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

On December 4, 2012, a Sub-Committee consisting of nine members of the November Term 2012 Richmond Country Grand Jury toured the Charles B. Webster Detention Center located at 1941 Phinizy Road in Augusta, Georgia.

The Sub-Committee was met by Captain Chester Huffman and Major William Johnson. After a brief overview of the facilities and lunch, Major Johnson left for a previously-scheduled appointment. Captain Huffman then led the Sub-Committee on a very thorough tour of the Medical Unit which houses medical and dental exam rooms as well as the mental health area. The areas were very clean and well organized. The Medical Unit was staffed with two deputies and what appeared to be very efficient technology for the management and security of the pod.

The Sub-Committee was then shown the construction site for the new Inmate Processing Center. All inmates are currently booked in and released from 401 Walton Way. Upon completion of the Inmate Processing Center, all bookings and releases will take place at the Detention Center which will aid in efficiencies and security.

The Sub-Committee then toured the women's pod which has eighty-four beds. The pods were clean, orderly and staffed with two deputies. The security system was more manual than the one in the Medical Unit, but it was our understanding from Captain Huffman that plans are in place to update to newer technology.

It was apparent to the Sub-Committee, especially in light of the future completion of the Inmate Processing Center, that the actual facilities of the Detention Center are currently acceptable. It is the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that salary ranges and merit increases of the correction officers are brought in line with comparable-sized detention facilities in Georgia.

Sub-Committee Members

Thomas Martin Bird
William Dales Brown, Jr.
Morris Walter Fetzer
Monica Cave Graham
Marie T. Killips
Ronald Owen McDearis
Beverly N. Mickens
Bruce A. Reeves
Cindy Beard Smith

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NOVEMBER TERM 2012 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY
TAX COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

On December 11, 2012 a six-member Sub-Committee from the November Term 2012 Richmond County Grand Jury visited and toured the Augusta-Richmond County Tax Commissioner's Office located at 530 Greene Street, Augusta, Georgia.

The Sub-Committee was met by Steven B. Kendrick, Tax Commissioner, and later joined by Chris Jackson, Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner, Sharon Gales-Kendrick, Property Tax Division Director and Ryan Barbin, Finance Division Director.

Mr. Kendrick gave a very detailed and informative overview of the tax offices and also explained the different types and amounts of taxes billed and collected by his office and how and when the taxes are remitted to the appropriate governing bodies.

Mr. Kendrick then explained the changes his department will see with the recent enactment of House Bill 868 which will, in part, eliminate state and local sales tax and ad valorem property tax for vehicles purchased on or after March 1, 2013. Instead, the new law imposes a seven percent combined state and local title fee on new, used and leased vehicles. The fee will apply to dealer sales, casual sales, leases and out-of-state purchases transferred to Georgia. Mr. Kendrick assured the Sub-Committee that his office will be prepared for these changes.

Mr. Kendrick reviewed some of the changes he has made in the office since 2007 with the goal of "changing the image of the tax office." He has also made the effort to "take the mystery out of what we do." It was evident to the Sub-Committee that the atmosphere in the office was very pleasant and upbeat and the moral seemed to be very good.

While the Sub-Committee did not have the opportunity to visit the East Augusta location at 925 Laney Walker or the South Augusta office located at 2029 Lumpkin Road, Mr. Kendrick explained the functions of each office.

It was very apparent to this Sub-Committee that Mr. Kendrick and his staff has a very strong knowledge and understanding of the Georgia Tax Code along with the workings of the Tax Commissioner's Office.

Sub-Committee Members

Thomas Martin Bird
Morris Walter Fetzer
Marie T. Killips
William Thomas Mills
Bruce A. Reeves
Cindy Beard Smith