

BK.3, P. 2126-2132
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
AND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FILED FOR RECORD

2013 MAY 17 AM 10:14

CLARENCE C. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

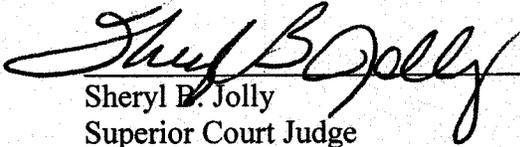
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE MARCH TERM 2013

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the January Term 2013, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on May 17, 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 17th day of May 2013.


Sheryl B. Jolly
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

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

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
March Term 2013

DATE: May 17, 2013

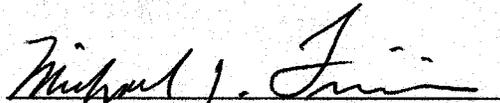
RE: Grand Jury Presentment

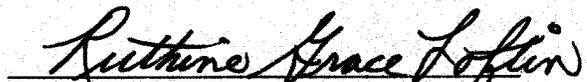
We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the March Term 2013, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Sheryl B. Jolly on the 18th day of March 2013, submit our presentment on the 17th day of May 2013, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

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.

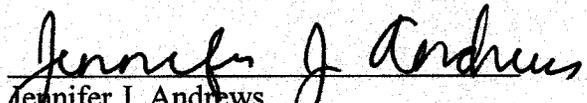
Sub-Committees were formed to inspect Animal Services, the Charles B. Webster Detention Center and the Sheriff's Office; reports are attached.

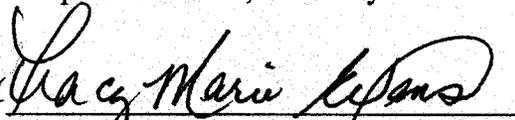
The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 17th day of May 2013 and requests that it is published.

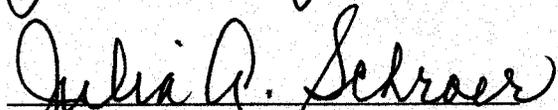

Michael J. Firmin, Foreperson

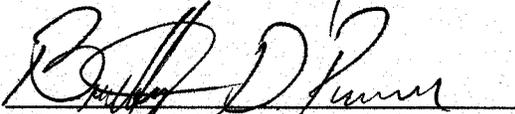

Ruthine Grace Loftin, Asst. Foreperson

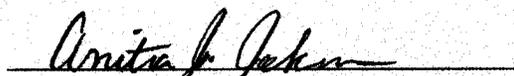
Joseph L. Flanders, Secretary

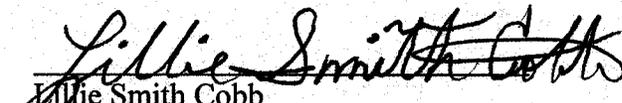

Jennifer J. Andrews

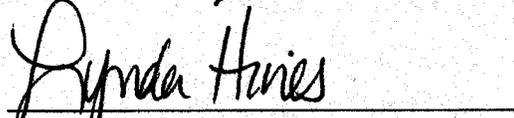

Tracy Marie Evans


Julia A. Schroer


Brittany Danielle Purse


Anitra Jennifer Johnson


Lillie Smith Cobb


Lynda Hines

Charles S. Wilburn, Jr.
Charles Smith Wilburn, Jr.

Mary A. Dority
Mary A. Dority

Leon E. Carr
Leon E. Carr

April Michelle Williams
April Michelle Williams

Kendra Diane Chastain
Kendra Diane Chastain

Vy Thanh Nguyen

Ralph Douglas Godbee
Ralph Douglas Godbee

Johann Ehntholt

Tony LaBord

Stephen Robinson III

Darlena Arnette Grice
Darlena Arnette Grice

Candice Riche

Jonathan Alvarado
Jonathan Alvarado

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH TERM 2013 GRAND JURY REPORT ON ANIMAL SERVICES

A Sub-Committee of the Richmond County Grand Jury visited Animal Services on Tuesday afternoon, May 7, 2013. Sharon Broady, Animal Services Director, met with the Sub-Committee and provided information on their operation and hosted a tour of the facility.

In addition to Ms. Broady, other employees include the kennel manager, a road supervisor, six animal control officers, one bite case officer, several kennel staff and a veterinarian shared with two other counties (spays and neuters are performed on Wednesdays as well as any other required surgeries).

The facility, located at 4164 Mack Lane, consists of a front office area, two small visitation rooms where prospective adoptees interact with potential new family pets, a kitchen area with an automatic dishwasher to accommodate the stainless steel dog bowls and stainless steel cat litter pans, 60 pens on the right side of the kennel area to hold strays until owners claim them or they can be put up for adoption, 40 pens on the right side of the kennel area for dogs up for adoption, 3 cat rooms where strays and adoptable cats are kept separate, an operating room utilized on Wednesdays, a room for animal control officers who patrol for strays to complete their paperwork and enter animals into the website for claiming or adopting animals, storage rooms, a euthanasia room and an intake area in the back where the road officers and the public unload their vehicles of strays and pets for adoption and log their pictures and information into an on-line national database. The kennel areas have noise reducing ceiling tiles to help keep the volume of the barking down. There was a baby hawk with a broken wing in a cage in the back holding area awaiting the vet's visit on Wednesday to have its wing repaired. There are also two pens in the back to hold livestock; one of them was holding a rather large pot belly pig!

The facility handled 9,654 animals in 2012. This included 5,681 dogs and puppies, 3,335 cats and kittens, 7 ferrets and 631 other animals such as snakes, goats, pigs, etc. This number was almost double the amount reported in 2011.

Animals brought to the facility are separated and held in quarantine pending return to their owners. If unclaimed, they are evaluated for potential adoption. If friendly and perceived to be adoptable, they are given all shots and spayed or neutered and put up for adoption. The public is charged an adoption fee and currently ranges from \$65.00 for cats to \$75.00 for male dogs and \$85.00 for female dogs (\$50.00 regardless of cat or dog to senior citizens 60 and over) and is inclusive of spay or neuter and all shots given. This low price makes adoption very affordable to the public and helps defray some of the facility's operation costs. The facility also receives donations (monetary and materials). Dogs are required to be vaccinated for rabies. All animals must be spayed or neutered before leaving the facility to go to a new home.

Long-term animals are often sponsored by area foster care workers to make room for incoming animals.

Additional services include removing unwanted animals from homes like bats, raccoons and snakes, removing dead animals from roads and loaning humane traps for people to catch unwanted animals and feral cats.

Some needs of the facility are:

- a disaster trailer for emergency responders equipped with bedding and cages and medical supplies to treat wounded animals. The facility has had a mock drill with Chatham County and would reciprocate with help to Burke County and Fort Gordon as needed.
- another animal control truck
- repairs to doors, drains and walls

Our main concern was the fast deterioration of such a new building due to rust. The building's doors are steel and have rusted because of the cleaners and water used to keep the kennel floors clean. Stainless steel kick plates have been installed on some of the doors, but the kick plates were installed with regular screws (not stainless) and more rusting is occurring. Some cracked walls, due to settling of the building, have been repaired with caulk. The floor drains are rusting and there are orange streaks on the concrete floors near all the drains. When asked about all the rust and the condition of some of the doors, Ms. Broady indicated that some have been fixed, but many more need to be replaced. Ms. Broady stated they would like to put a substrate on the floor that would be easier to keep clean, but money is an issue. The Sub-Committee requests this be looked into further. The building needs to be properly repaired to keep it in good working order. Funding for these repairs needs to be found.

A secondary concern was that dogs had only the concrete to sit and lay on. Concrete holds the cold and it would be nice to have some easily washable rugs or blankets with the dogs. The cats have a comforter-type pillow that is handmade by a woman. It would seem more humane for a small one to be put in with the dogs, too.

We were impressed with what a well-operated facility this is. It is clean, well maintained and organized. Every effort is made to find pet owners using an on-line nationwide database and posting pictures as fast as possible. Ms. Broady indicated she felt confident in serving the County's citizens and their needs in this area. All of the staff were courteous and professional and happily sharing their duties with us. This facility reflects well of Richmond County.

Sub-Committee Members

Ruthine Grace Loftin
Charles Smith Wilburn, Jr.
April Michelle Williams

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH TERM 2013 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

On April 2, 2013, a Sub-Committee of the March Term 2013 Richmond County Grand Jury inspected the new Sheriff's Office located at 400 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia 30911.

Upon arriving at the Sheriff's Office, we were greeted by Chief Deputy Patrick Clayton who is second in command to Sheriff Richard Roundtree. Chief Deputy Clayton met with the Sub-Committee in a formal conference room. He spoke of the Sheriff's Office's plans for expansion and better ways to service the citizens of Richmond County.

The Sheriff's Office is a new building. Upon entry, visitors walk through a security check area to ensure no weapons are brought into the building. On the other side of the building is a separate entrance where individuals have access to retrieve records and obtain copies of their background reports.

The Sub-Committee was taken by surprise at the volume of outstanding warrant files in the records room, all for Richmond County. Here, we were introduced to the people who keep these records updated.

We were introduced to Lt. Jimmy Young who appeared to be extremely busy, but took a moment to speak to the Sub-Committee members.

During our tour, the Sub-Committee was shown the interrogation rooms. These were small rooms with the table and chairs bolted down and shackles anchored into the floor. These precautions make interrogations safer for the investigators in case a suspect gets violent and tries to throw the furniture.

At one point, we walked through a small corridor and two Sub-Committee members detected a pungent odor. Having questioned what it was, we had just passed an evidence room that housed marijuana.

We toured the Crime Scene Investigations area where lockers are on one side of the wall and the investigators remove the items from the other side. Another area was designated for officers to call in tag numbers for pull over vehicles.

We were introduced to the D.A.R.E. Program's officer who explained to Sub-Committee Members what he does and what the new program will consist of.

Sub-Committee Members

Tracy Marie Evans
Darlena Arnette Grice

Ralph Douglas Godbee
Ruthine Grace Loftin

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH TERM 2013 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER**

On March 26, 2013, a Sub-Committee of the March Term 2013 Richmond County Grand Jury, consisting of seven members, toured the Charles B. Webster Detention Center located at 1941 Phinizy Road, Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. The Sub-Committee was greeted in the visitor reception area by the facility's chief jailer, Captain Chester V. Huffman, Jr., who gave a summary description and overview of the Detention Center's workings at the present time.

The Sub-Committee members were served lunch in the staff dining area as Captain Huffman explained how food services provided at the Detention Center are managed through a correctional food services contractor at considerable cost savings to the taxpayers of Augusta-Richmond County. It was noted that inmates receive a balanced diet following ADA daily calorie allowance recommendations.

Following lunch, Captain Huffman provided a brief tour of the facility. Captain Huffman pointed out that there was a considerable amount of construction underway at present due to accomplishments being made toward the facility's multi-phase and year Master Plan which includes the eventual closing of all current jail activities currently being carried out at the 401 Walton Way Law Enforcement Center. Most notable was completion of the new inmate Visitor Center and a newly-constructed men's incarceration pod. The Sub-Committee was escorted into the current women's pod and given some insight into how the detention pods function. The area is viewed from the pod's control tower and is staffed by two female deputies. Captain Huffman explained how security and safety are maintained. It was noted that inmates have access to television and computer privileges in addition to an outdoor area designated for structured physical activity time.

Upon completion of the women's pod observation, Captain Huffman returned with the Sub-Committee members to the visitor reception area at which time he explained how the multi-phase and year Master Plan has benefited Augusta-Richmond County's law enforcement agency by continuing to ensure future improvements and expansion of the Detention Center can be carried out in a cost-effective manner.

It appeared to the Sub-Committee that the facilities of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center are currently acceptable. The Sub-Committee's one recommendation would be to review current compensation levels of facility staff and evaluate for increase based upon merit, experience and longevity in order to retain qualified staff and recruit new employees to the Detention Center.

Sub-Committee Members

Kendra Diane Chastain
Johann Ehntholt
Joseph L. Flanders

Ralph Douglas Godbee
Lynda Hines

Ruthine Grace Loftin
April Michelle Williams