

Bk. 3, p. 4136-4140  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE  
AND JUVENILE COURT  
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2014 MAY 16 AM 10:40

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY  
LEWIS C. JOHNSON, CLERK  
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

STATE OF GEORGIA

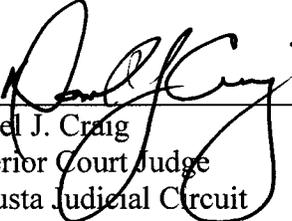
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE MARCH TERM 2014

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the March Term 2014, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on May 16, 2014, 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 May 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel J. Craig  
Superior Court Judge  
Augusta Judicial Circuit

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

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury  
March Term 2014

DATE: May 16, 2014

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the March Term 2014, having been duly sworn by the Honorable W. Wade Padgett on the 17th day of March 2014, submit our presentment on the 16th day of May 2014, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

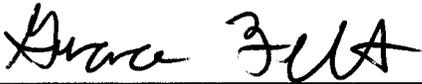
To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on eight (8) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

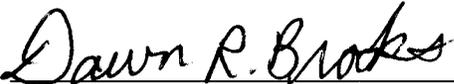
A Sub-Committee was formed to inspect the Charles B. Webster Detention Center; the report is attached.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 16th day of May 2014 and requests that it is published.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronnie Calvin Brown, Foreperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandy Nelson Williams, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grace Elizabeth Felt

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn R. Brooks

\_\_\_\_\_  
Silvia Rodriguez Wheeler

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Michael Myers, Asst. Foreperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Emma Lou Anderson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sun Chu Han

\_\_\_\_\_  
Calvin Sherrod

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lamont A. Morris, Jr.

*Christopher Edfield*

Christopher Edfield

*Judith Mockabee Wyatt*

Judith Mockabee Wyatt

*Violet Louise Chavous*

Violet Louise Chavous

*Charla J. Davis*

Charla Janel Davis

*Maria Hernandez*

Maria Carmen Hernandez

*Laura Macie Power*

Laura Macie Power

*Elizabeth G. Reese*

Elizabeth G. Reese

Ernest Wiley Brown II

*Joyce Butler-Slaughter*

Joyce Butler-Slaughter

*Annie Mae Gardner*

Annie Mae Gardner

*Cathy R. Golatt*

Cathy R. Golatt

## **SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH 2014 GRAND JURY TERM REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER**

On April 22, 2014, a Sub-Committee of the March 2014 Grand Jury Term arrived at the Charles B. Webster Detention Center around 1:00 p.m. and were cordially welcomed by Captain Bill Reeves and Robert Leverett. Mr. Leverett will be taking over as head administrator within the next month when the current head administrator retires. We were escorted to the staff dining room for lunch where a choice of generous portions of fried or baked chicken or hotdogs, boiled cabbage, lima beans, macaroni and cheese, corn bread and a modest salad bar was available. Following lunch, we were joined by Captain Chester Huffman.

On the day of our visit, 848 inmates were being held at the Detention Center. With each cell housing either two or four prisoners, full capacity is 1,056 inmates.

The first area toured was the emergency equipment room. It includes the release area where personal belongings are returned to the inmates. Prior to inmates' release, their fingerprints are scanned to confirm the correct individual is being discharged.

We were informed supervisors alone possess keys to ensure inmates have fewer opportunities to escape via keyed entryways. We also noted many areas are locked and unlocked electronically from remote stations. No one area controls all doors, so multiple control areas would have to be breached in order to successfully escape. Back-up generators keep the electricity flowing at the Detention Center in the event of a power failure, such as the ice storm the CSRA experienced this past winter. Another safeguard is restrictions on the limited presence of cell phones to staff that absolutely need the ability to communicate from one area to another. A cell phone in the hands of an inmate could result in a possible escape attempt.

Next, we toured the booking and medical treatment area. One of the newer areas in the Detention Center, it contains the initial holding rooms, booths for intoxicated individuals, nursing station, a section for taking individuals' mug shots, telephones for making initial calls, showers and restraint rooms for individuals who may attempt to harm themselves or others. This is also the area where inmates are allowed to visit with family, friends and their lawyers via monitors in order to eliminate the passing of contraband. According to our tour guides, this area is the newest section in the Detention Center; it opened in January of this year.

The next area toured was the medical pod. Starting in the muster room where modern technology has been installed to help with teaching classes for the officers, we learned the daily routine followed for handling the change of shifts.

We then toured the medical pod itself and were told medical care was previously provided at no cost. Consequently, inmates complained of false medical problems to get time away from their cells to visit with the nursing staff. Now that the Detention Center charges \$5.00 per visit and limits inmates to \$50.00 spending cash per week, there are significantly fewer medical complaints. If an inmate has a legitimate medical need and does not have any money, he or she will receive the necessary treatment.

One Sub-Committee Member observed everything we had seen thus far looked and smelled very clean and neat. We were told the inmates were regularly reminded that if their area was clean, they would have television privileges, but the television would not come on if the area was dirty.

We asked about a case presented to the Grand Jury that morning involving an inmate who broke a glass window in the Detention Center prison and were told the window had been repaired.

Next we toured the female pod. On the day of our visit, 96 female inmates were incarcerated. The pod currently housing the females is one of the older pods. The area did look and smell clean in general, but the floor tiles were worn and some of the paint in well-trafficked areas was scuffed. We observed the shower area was cordoned off due to current remodeling. We were told as one area was completed, inmates were moved into that area and out of the next area needing renovations.

As we were leaving the female pod area, our guides discussed how ongoing building projects were coordinated in such a way that maintained security. Background checks were performed on all workers and building areas fenced off until the new area's outer wall was complete and monitoring in place. A long-term administrative staff member said the most recent building projects had impressed him because this was the first time architects designing the new structures had sat down with the staff who worked at the facility to ask what features would work best.

Our last stop was at a separate building across the parking lot. The visitor center was neat, clean and well lit as was the rest of the areas we had seen. We were shown the machines family and friends used to deposit money into inmates' accounts. Using accounts instead of letting inmates keep money on their persons helps to stop fights over stolen money. We also saw the monitor screens and telephones visitors use to communicate with loved ones.

We were introduced to Katherine Mason, of the Public Defender's Office, as she was leaving one of the private booths. She told us that anytime we like, we were welcome to tour the two trailers her offices utilize which is in close proximity to the Sheriff's Office on Walton Way.

Altogether, we thoroughly enjoyed our tour of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. The buildings were well cared for and there appears to be a well thought-out plan for renovations of older areas and construction of new sections. Also, systematic structuring throughout the Detention Center keeps order and helps maintain safety for employees and inmates.

#### Sub-Committee Members

Dawn R. Brooks  
Violet Louise Chavous  
Annie Mae Gardner  
Lamont A. Morris, Jr.  
Brandy Nelson Williams  
Judith Mockabee Wyatt