

Bk. 3, p. 4470-4474

CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE
AND JUVENILE COURT
FILED FOR RECORD

2014 JUL 18 AM 10:05

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

STATE OF GEORGIA

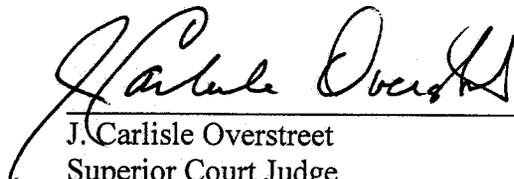
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE MAY TERM 2014

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the May Term 2014, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on July 18, 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 18th day of July 2014.



J. Carlisle Overstreet
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable J. Carlisle Overstreet
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
May Term 2014

DATE: July 18, 2014

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

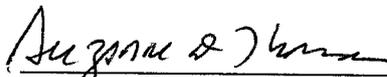
We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the May Term 2014, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. Carlisle Overstreet on the 19th day of May 2014, submit our presentment on the 18th day of July 2014, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on nine (9) 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 18th day of July 2014 and requests that it is published.

John Nolan Baird, Foreperson



Suzanne D. Thomas, Asst. Foreperson

Margaret Knapp Helton, Secretary

Archie Davis, Jr.

Marilyn Zhoanie Hyde

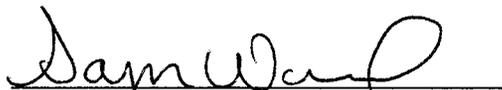
Krystal Celeste Wright

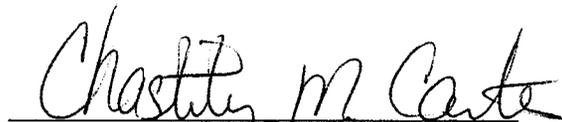
James K. Turner III

Wayne Allen Bowman

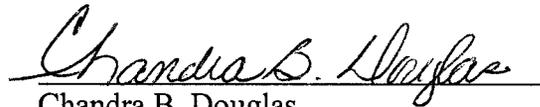
Stephanie S. Huggins

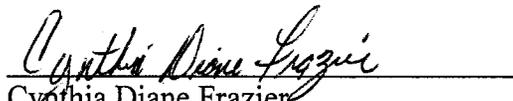
Terrance L. Campbell

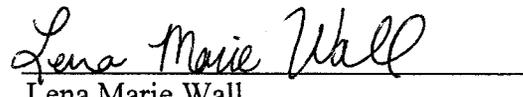

Samuel L. Ward

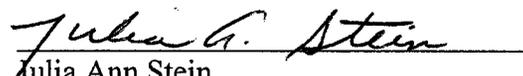

Chastity M. Carter

Erik Michael Napier


Chandra B. Douglas


Cynthia Diane Frazier


Lena Marie Wall


Julia Ann Stein

Saquanna Nekeyia Wesley


Angela D. Simpkins Hawes

Johnathan Dewayne Rowe


Nicholas Alden McGruder

Albert Jacob Jackson

Morris L. Williams, Jr.

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

On June 17, 2014, a Sub-Committee of the May 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. Captain Reeves earned his B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice and has been in law enforcement since graduating from Georgia Southern University in 1991. He is third generation law enforcement. Captain Reeves oversees daily operations, as well as supervises sworn and civilian employees, and works hand-in-hand with local court systems on the State, Superior and Federal levels.

We were escorted to the staff dining room for lunch where generous portions of fried or baked chicken, hotdogs, boiled cabbage, lima beans, macaroni and cheese, corn bread and a modest salad bar were available. Following lunch, we were joined by Robert Leverett, the new jail administrator, who superseded Major Gene Johnson in May 2014. Mr. Leverett, former warden of the Richmond County Correctional Institution, has more than 40 years of law enforcement/corrections experience serving in several leadership and management positions.

On the day of our visit, 942 inmates were being held at the Detention Center. With each cell housing either two or four prisoners, full capacity is 1,056 inmates.

Inmates are housed at 1941 Phinizy Road. The Detention Center, a pod-style facility, opened in 1997 and was originally designed to alleviate the overcrowding of the now-closed Richmond County Jail on Walton Way. Captain Reeves stated that the jail is a city within a city and the long hallway stretches a quarter mile from one end of the jail to the other.

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

We were informed that 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 of 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 female pod to see where the female inmates are incarcerated. This pod is one of the older pods and is currently being renovated. As one area is completed, female inmates will be moved into that area and out of the next area needing renovations. We also saw where male inmates are incarcerated.

Next we toured the booking and medical treatment area. This 35,000-square-foot inmate processing center, the newest section in the Detention Center, opened on January 7, 2014. It contains 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.

Modern technology has been installed in the medical pod to help with teaching classes for the officers. Medical care was previously provided at no cost. However, inmates complained of false medical problems to get time away from their cells to visit with the nursing staff. Now the Detention Center charges \$5.00 per visit and limits inmates to \$50.00 spending cash per week; there are significantly fewer medical complaints. An inmate with a legitimate medical need and no money will receive the necessary treatment.

Inmates are regularly reminded that if their area is clean, they will have television privileges, but the television will not come on if their area is dirty.

Our guides discussed how ongoing building projects are coordinated in such a way that security is maintained. Background checks are performed on all workers and building areas are fenced off until the new area's outer wall is complete and monitoring in place.

Our last stop was the visitor center, a separate building across the parking lot. The visitor center was neat, clean and well lit as was the rest of the areas visited. We were shown how family and friends deposit money into inmates' accounts. Using accounts instead of letting inmates keep money on their person helps to stop fights over stolen money. Monitor screens and telephones are how visitors communicate with loved ones.

Altogether, we thoroughly enjoyed our tour of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. The buildings are well cared for and there appears to be a well thought-out plan for renovations of older areas and construction of new sections. This is the first time architects designing the new structures have asked for the staff's input and suggestions on how to make the features of the Detention Center work best for them. This systematic structuring throughout the Detention Center keeps order and helps maintain safety for employees and inmates.

Sub-Committee Members

John Nolan Baird
Chastity M. Carter
Julia Ann Stein
James K. Turner III