

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

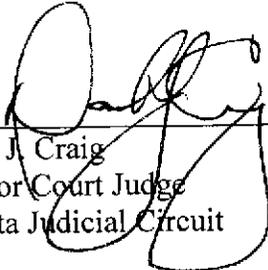
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE MARCH TERM 2015

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the March Term 2015, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on May 15, 2015, 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 15th day of May 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 2015

DATE: May 15, 2015

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the March Term 2015, having been duly sworn by the Honorable Carl C. Brown, Jr. on the 16th day of March 2015, submit our presentment on the 15th day of May 2015, 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 Drug Court; the reports are attached.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 15th day of May 2015 and requests that it is published.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Kevin Stiff, Foreperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Ann Rice, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Michelle Brantley

*Cametrea Council*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cametrea S. Council

*Sharon S. Broady*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon S. Broady

*Marie Hutchison*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marie Hutchison, Assistant Foreperson

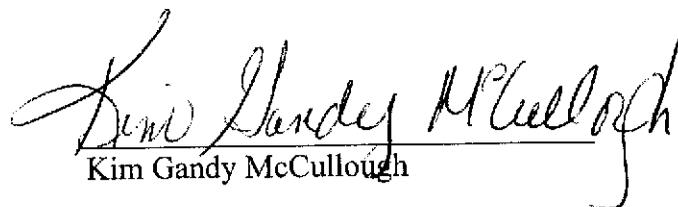
*Dontae Marice Taggett*  
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Dontae Marice Taggett

*Jacqueline J. Westbrook*  
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Jacqueline J. Westbrook

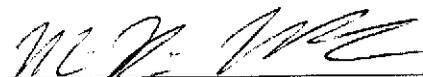
*Jimmy Lamar Jones*  
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Jimmy Lamar Jones

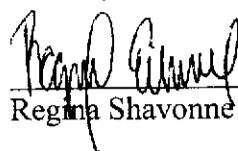
*Rosalyn D. Conyers*  
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Rosalyn D. Conyers

  
Joy P. Deas

  
Kim Gandy McCullough

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Emily Harrison Croft

  
Mi-asha Denise McGee

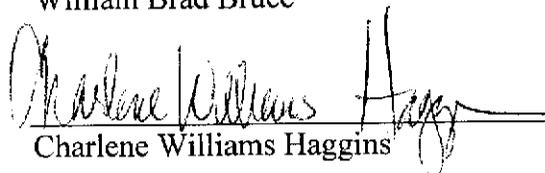
  
Regina Shavonne Edmonds

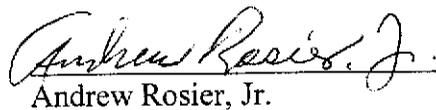
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Donna Marie Wall

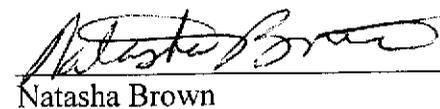
  
Margaret D. Zelenko

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Brad Bruce

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Cynthia Diane Dukes

  
Charlene Williams Haggins

  
Andrew Rosier, Jr.

  
Natasha Brown

  
Crystal Danielle Morgan

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH TERM 2015 GRAND JURY  
REPORT ON DRUG COURT**

On March 31, 2015, a four-member Sub-Committee of the March Term 2015 Grand Jury met with Judge James G. Blanchard, Jr., Shaun Brooks, Court Administrator, and Elaina Ashley, Drug Court Coordinator. Judge Blanchard gave a brief overview of Drug Court and how it operates.

Drug Court provides substance-abuse treatment to individuals who have committed drug-related, non-violent crimes. It offers an alternative to incarceration for participants who complete the program. Drug Court is a two-year voluntary program consisting of five phases. When the participant completes the program within the two-year timeframe, the total fee is \$3,600.00.

During the first phase of the program, participants must attend two-hour treatment sessions five days a week. These are in addition to attending a minimum of three AA/NA meetings and a weekly court session. They must submit a minimum of three drug screens per week. Participants must be at home according to curfew which is from 9:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. if not employed, to 5:00 a.m. These stringent guidelines support accountability and discipline in the participants and are necessary for addicts to succeed in their road to recovery. Participants must have a minimum of 30 days sobriety to be considered for the next phase. They must also pay a minimum of \$275.00 and 20% restitution, if owed.

During phase two, the two-hour treatment sessions are reduced to three per week while other meetings and court sessions remain the same as in the first phase. Participants must have a minimum of 45 days clean to advance to the third phase. A minimum of \$800.00 and 20% of restitution, if owed, must also be paid to move to the next phase.

During phase three, the two-hour treatment sessions are reduced to two per week with most other requirements being identical to phase two. Participants must have 90 days clean to move to the next phase as well as pay a minimum of \$1,700.00 and 20% of restitution, if owed.

During phase four, the two-hour treatment sessions are reduced to one per week with most other requirements remaining the same as the previous phase. Participants must have 180 days clean and pay \$2,600.00 as well as 20% restitution, if owed, in order to advance.

Phase five requirements are similar to phase four. Participants must have 360 days clean to be considered for graduation and must have paid the program balance as well as restitution, if owed.

Drug Court has had 106 graduates since the program began in 2009. This means there are 106 less people in jail or prison. Drug Court offers these individuals a second chance. With the help of this program, participants learn to be accountable and honest. With the treatment and support offered in this program, they are taught to be functioning members of society and can offer support to others struggling with addiction.

**Sub-Committee Members:**

Joy P. Deas  
Andrew Rosier, Jr.  
James Kevin Stiff  
Donna Marie Wall

## **SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH TERM 2015 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER**

On March 24, 2015, a four-member Sub-Committee of the March Term 2015 Grand Jury inspected the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. Upon our arrival, we were met by Captain Bill Reeves and later accompanied by Major Robert Leverett and Captain Sheila White. We began our tour with a hot lunch cooked and served to us by the inmates. The menu for that day included baked/fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, cabbage, green beans, salad, cornbread, cookies, lemonade and tea.

During lunch, Sub-Committee Members had an opportunity to ask questions about the facility. We were told the Detention Center can house slightly over 1,000 inmates. At the time of our visit, a little over 900 inmates were being housed; 100 were female inmates. We were informed that inmates as young as 17 are housed in the facility as well. In some cases, if a juvenile is tried as an adult before the age of 18, they will serve their time in the Youth Detention Center and will be transferred to the Detention Center at the age of 17.

The inmates are treated fairly in the facility. Some inmates who behave well have the opportunity to receive two days off of their sentence for each day of good behavior or become a Trustee within the facility. Becoming a Trustee in the Detention Center allows well-behaved inmates to have jobs during their incarceration.

The typical day for an inmate begins at 6:30 a.m. when they get up to eat breakfast and return to their cells, or pods, around 7:00 a.m. They are let out of their cells at around 9:00 a.m. only if it is cleaned; if not, they stay in until their cells are cleaned. Inmates whose cells are cleaned gain the privilege to stay out until 5:00 p.m. Inmates are granted one hour of recreation time a day and are able to go to the commissary once a week. Inmates are allowed to spend \$30.00 for food and \$50.00 for hygiene products. Lunch is served about the noon hour and dinner around 7:00 p.m. By that time, inmates are back in their cells. Inmates are housed two or four to a cell and are provided a five-to-six inch bed, a sheet and a blanket to sleep on. For safety reasons, pillows are not provided. An inmate is allowed 30 minutes of visitation three times a week. Unlike earlier person-to-person visitation, the Detention Center now provides video conferencing to keep inmates from receiving contraband from the outside.

The Detention Center has a budget of at least 17 million dollars a year in which 5 million is budgeted toward the inmates for Medicare. The inmates are covered through Blue Cross Blue Shield and Medicare. If an inmate needs medicine, a \$5.00 co-payment is required.

Security cameras are placed in almost every corner of the facility to ensure there are no attempted escapes. Whenever a door is to be opened, whoever is requesting access is checked via camera and in order for one door to open, the other door has to close. This procedure is in place to provide safety for whoever is going through the doors. Security guards are provided Tasers instead of guns to ensure both inmate and security guard are safe and to prevent any dangers involving guns. At least 216 security guards are hired a year; however, the number of guards employed at the time of our visit was 195. This means there are only 33 security guards in the facility keeping track of a little over 900 inmates. This equates to a 1:27 officer-to-inmate ratio.

Inmates in the facility are identified by wearing either solid colored or striped jumpers and each has different meanings as described below:

Solid = Non-Violent with Male Inmates in Orange and Female Inmates in Pink  
Striped = Violent with Male Inmates in Orange and Female Inmates in Pink

Inmates in these distinctive colors are placed in different cell blocks. This system was made to protect the non-violent from the violent. For example, if someone was sent to the Detention Center for harming a child or elderly person, they wear a solid jumper, but if someone went in for attempted murder, they wear a striped jumper.

Inmates are identified by thick rubber arm bands they receive upon arrival. The facility replaced paper bands with these thick rubber arm bands to prevent exchanges among inmates attempting releases earlier than scheduled. Another method to keep track of inmates is the fingerprinting system used to ensure the correct inmates are being released. In the past, inmates, especially if they had a twin, would exchange wrist bands and pretend to be the other inmate. The only documentation guards had when they released the inmates was sign-out sheets. Anyone could sign under an inmate's name, but no one would know if they released the correct inmate.

The visit to the Detention Center was well worth the trip. A lot of information was learned during the inspection. Sub-Committee Members agree that Major Leverett, Captain Reeves and Captain White run a healthy and secure facility. The only recommendation this Sub-Committee has is to strengthen the officer-to-inmate ratio and provide a separate block for inmates who are classified as Trustees.

Sub-Committee Members:

Cametrea S. Council  
Charlene Williams Haggins  
Kim Gandy McCullough  
Mi-asha Denise McGee