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**DEKALB COUNTY GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS
MAY - JUNE TERM, 2016**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES:

COURTNEY L. JOHNSON
ASHA F. JACKSON
CLARENCE F. SEELIGER
GAIL C. FLAKE
GREGORY A. ADAMS
J P BOULEE
DANIEL M. COURSEY, JR.
LINDA W. HUNTER
MARK ANTHONY SCOTT
TANGELA BARRIE

Of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
This Grand Jury, sworn in by the **Honorable Gregory A. Adams** in the DeKalb Superior
Court on **May 3, 2016** respectfully submits the following presentments.

INDICTMENTS

This Grand Jury was presented with (303) cases during the **May-June 2016** term. Of these
cases (299) True Bills and (4) No Bills were returned. An additional (183) cases proceeded
by Accusation.

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION

Pursuant to the O.C.G.A. § 15-12-80, we the presently constituted Grand Jury recommend to
the **Honorable Gail C. Flake** that these general presentments be published in whole in the
County Legal Organ.

General Recommendations:

- Attach a FAQ document to the Grand Jury Summons to answer basic questions such as what the difference is between a Grand Jury Summons and a regular Jury Summons.
- Add a large map of DeKalb County to the wall for the ADA, witnesses, and jury reference.
- Fix the light in the Grand Jurors' break room so those in the room can CLEARLY see when the Grand Jurors are deliberating or not.
- Replace the microphone and/or have a good supply of batteries available in the Grand Jury room at all times.
- Review probable cause and the distinction between probable cause and reasonable doubt at the beginning of the first few days of the session.
- Provide training and examples about the most common felonies that the Grand Jury will be exposed to during the term. The guns and drugs presentation, while interesting, was too long and detailed. Also, ADA's and witnesses should learn to pronounce drug names or use acceptable generic terms or acronyms.

Inspection of Department of Finance and Office of Planning and Budget

June 28, 2016

Four administrators from the Department of Finance and Office of Planning and Budget, led by Mr. Jon Jay Vinicki, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, gave a presentation to the Grand Jury members, which included the following general topics.

- (1) Structure of the finance department and budget office
- (2) Functions, duties, and responsibilities of these offices
- (3) Difference between government finance and “checkbook” finances
- (4) Controls, restrictions, and oversight
- (5) Annual budget process and taxation
- (6) DeKalb County’s population, operating budget, outstanding debt, number of employees, number of retirees, and invoices processed annually
- (7) How fund accounting works
- (8) Budget process timeline
- (9) Financial oversight

Grand Jurors’ questions focused on the following areas:

- (1) The auditing process
- (2) The retiree program
- (3) The P (purchasing) card program and its current restrictions
- (4) County debt
- (5) The incorporation of cities within unincorporated DeKalb County and how that affects the overall allocation of money for county versus city functions
- (6) Who constitutional officers, such as the DeKalb County sheriff, are accountable to
- (7) The extent of independence of the external auditors

DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office Inspection:

On June 23, 2016, the May-June, 2016 Session of the DeKalb County Grand Jury interviewed Sheriff Jeffrey Mann, representing the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office. Outlined below are some of Sheriff Mann’s responses to Grand Jurors’ questions.

Sheriff Mann explained that in most of the 159 counties of the state of Georgia, the sheriff’s office constitutes the chief law enforcement entity of the county. In larger, more populous counties, such as DeKalb County, there is a separate county police force. In DeKalb County, the Sheriff’s Office performs three important functions: (1) management of the county jail,

(2) serving criminal warrants, and (3) security of the DeKalb County courthouse. The DeKalb County Jail can house up to 3900 inmates, but the current population is about 2000. The Sheriff's office has about 860 employees, 500 of whom are assigned to the jail. Sheriff Mann explained that the biggest challenge he has is related to staffing, recruiting, and retaining employees. Deputies, especially those who work at the jail, must be mature, patient, and restrained. The minimum age requirement is 21 years old. Sheriff Mann has asked the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to raise the current pay for deputies to the market rate to help with staffing issues.

The Grand Jury's concerns were primarily with the management of the jail. Previous cases heard by the Grand Jury during the current session raised some concerns about the presence of cell phones and illegal possession of drugs by inmates of the county jail. Sheriff Mann explained that there are three possible avenues for cell phones and other illegal contraband, including drugs, to enter the jail. These are (1) by arrestees due to failure by deputies to properly check or pat them down; (2) by visitors; and (3) by vendors (such as food service providers, medical and dental providers, and maintenance workers). Sheriff Mann explained that several procedures were in place to mitigate the presence of cell phones and drugs in the jail.

- (1) All visitors must pass through a magnetometer.
- (2) All visitors, except clergy and attorneys, must visit inmates through a remote video conferencing system.
- (3) Visiting clergy and attorneys are separated by a glass partition from inmates.
- (4) Two canines are assigned to duty in the jail. One dog is specifically trained to detect lithium in lithium cell phone batteries. The other dog is specifically trained to detect illegal drugs.

Sheriff Mann maintained that only one inmate had been caught with a cell phone in the past two years. He estimated approximately a dozen people had brought in drugs in the past 15 years (the time during which Sheriff Mann has been associated with the jail).

Grand Jurors also questioned Sheriff Mann about an incident in which a rap video performed by orange suited inmates at the jail had been posted to You Tube. Sheriff Mann indicated that although inmates who participated in the video were disciplined, he stated that the video was a consequence of high spirits. An inmate's visitor who had filmed the feed of a video visitation with her cell phone posted the video to You Tube.

With respect to a Grand Juror's question concerning inmates who may possibly have mental illness, Sheriff Mann explained that any inmate suspected of having such problems are screened upon intake to the jail. There are sections of the jail designated for housing inmates with severe mental illness, those needing suicide watch, and others who may need a transitional space due to more moderate mental issues.

DeKalb County, GA, Grand Jury (May-June, 2016) Inspection of the Investigation of Theft at the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management

The Grand Jury heard a case during the current term regarding charges of theft by a Watershed employee. The indictment charged the employee with selling metal owned by the Watershed Department to a local recycling center. The defendant's statement was that his supervisor provided the metal and the terms for selling it. The ADA explained to us that the supervisor was not charged since his name was not on the receipt. It was the Grand Jury's concern that if a supervisor was involved in this particular case and was not indicted there could be a larger ongoing issue of employee theft. On June 23, 2016, the Grand Jury spoke to the Director of Watershed Management, Mr. Scott Towler, and the Superintendent of Maintenance and Construction, Mr. Alan Moore, who were extremely helpful in answering our questions. They indicated that theft was a continual problem at Watershed Management due in part to a large number of employees combined with low wages but that recent measures have been taken to resolve the issue. We noted the following responses:

- There is video surveillance but it is not monitored.
- Recently Mr. Moore identified 23 employees as having sold metal to a local recycling center. Four employees were terminated, and others were disciplined.
- The chain link fence is routinely breached using bolt cutters.

- The supervisor was questioned but denied any involvement.
- Security at the Department of Watershed is provided by a vendor company.

The Watershed Department reported \$226,826.15 total loss for a two year period. Because of the amount of money lost in this period, we recommend a more thorough non-criminal investigation with a view toward answering the following questions.

- Would investing more money in a better fence or alarm system be offset by the savings?
- Can fewer people be provided access to valuable equipment to reduce risk?
- Are there other security companies that can provide better results?
- What is the most common example of theft and can that particular scenario be solved?
- Has theft decreased since the new security measures were put in place?

On June 7, 2016 the DeKalb County Board of Equalization presented names of qualified citizens of DeKalb County to serve as members and/or alternate members of the Board of Equalization for a three year term beginning January 1, 2017. We, the Grand Jury members approved the selected members. (See attached) The original document is filed in the DeKalb County Superior Court Clerk's Office.

**DEKALB COUNTY
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

Maloof Annex
1300 Commerce Dr.
Decatur, GA 30030
404 371 2451 Tel
404 371 2239 Fax

June 7, 2016

In accordance with the Georgia Annotated Code 48-5-311, I respectfully submit the names of qualified citizens of Dekalb County who have been selected to serve as members and alternate members Boards of Equalization:

The following people have been nominated to serve as board members for a three year term beginning January 1, 2017.

Beryl Glenn
3275 Wintercreeper Dr.
Lithonia GA 30038

Clarence Hollis, Jr.
3473 Lionsgate Ct.
Lithonia GA 30038

Clydie Carolyn Hubbard
4333 River Vista Rd.
Ellenwood GA 30294

Donald Jackson
1374 Crooked Tree Cir.
Stone Mountain GA
30088

Wayne Jones
3793 Seton Hall Dr.
Decatur GA 30034

Dorothy McGuire
3388 Hunters Chase Way
Lithonia GA 30038

Alwyn Morrison
783 Stonebrook Dr.
Lithonia GA 30058

Steven Parker
4840 Rondelay Forrest
Wy
Lithonia GA 30038

Jacquelin Slay
3480 Pheasant Ct.
Decatur GA 30034

Sherrill Smith
517 N. Shore Rd.
Lithonia GA 30058

Lonnie Tigner
3070 Donovan Way
Decatur GA 30034

Dorothy Willingham
3325 York Place
Decatur GA 30032

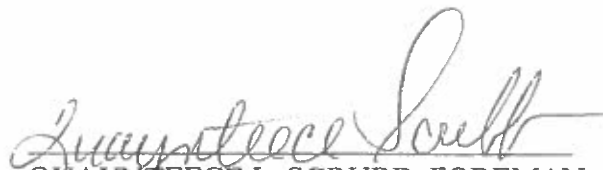
Annette Wilkerson
2928 Cocklebur Trail
Decatur GA 30034

Approved on

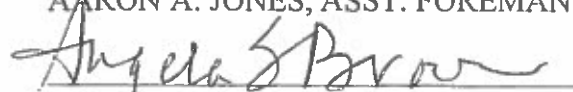
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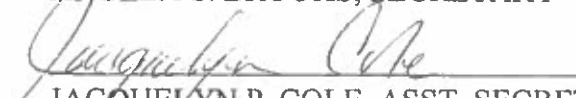
by Grand Jury Foreperson

Quynhleen Scrubbs


QUAYNTEECE L. SCRUBB, FOREMAN


AARON A. JONES, ASST. FOREMAN


ANGELA S. BROOKS, SECRETARY


JACQUELYN P. COLE, ASST. SECRETARY

KELLY S. BALZLI
MICHAEL S. BAROI
JOHN BREEDLOVE
KENDRA CARTER
EMMETT D. COLE, JR.
CHERRIE CURTIS-HOSKIN
ROBERT DAUGHTRY
TRACY M. FERRELL
JAMES S. HOLLER
SHENEKIA M. HUTCHINS
LIGA LIDUMS
BENITA LOVE
AMANDA MCCULLOUGH
JANE E. MCGUIRE
DEON NOWELL
RAY C. PITTS
KEVIN L. REDD
JAMES N. REES
JULIAN RUCKER
JOLIE A. SIMS
SCOTT A. STILLMAN
MILLY H. WALKER

ORDER

The within and forgoing presentments have been filed in open Court,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said presentment be filed and published, as requested, in the County Legal Organ.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of June, 2016.

Gail C. Flake

HONORABLE GAIL C. FLAKE, PRESIDING
JUDGE ON BEHALF OF THE HONORALBE
GREGORY A. ADAMS

DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT
STONE MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

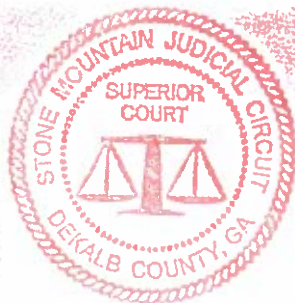
ACKNOWLEDGED:

Robert James

ROBERT D. JAMES
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

2016 JUN 30 PM 12:23
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
DEKALB COUNTY GA

FILED



State of Georgia, DeKalb County;
The undersigned officer of DeKalb Superior Court certifies that this is a true and correct copy of the original document which is on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court. Witness my hand and seal of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia.
This 30th day of June, 2016
Signature: *[Signature]*
Deputy Clerk of DeKalb County Superior Court