

16CV1018

**DEKALB COUNTY GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 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 Linda W. Hunter** in the DeKalb Superior  
Court on **November 8, 2016** respectfully submits the following presentments.

**INDICTMENTS**

This Grand Jury was presented with (284) cases during the **November-December 2016** term.  
Of these cases (280) True Bills and (4) No Bills were returned. An additional (129) 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 Linda W. Hunter** that these general presentments be published in whole in  
the County Legal Organ.

## **Recommendations**

1. Having more witnesses available at the time of indictments presented to the Grand Jury, also preparing the witnesses to be more concise and clear with details in the manner which they occurred at the time of the offense.
2. Raise the pay to \$50 per day.
3. The orientation on the first day was very comprehensive and helpful regarding the Grand Jury purpose and process. Continue to provide updates and communicate regularly with jurors.
4. Please clean jury room on a daily basis, counters top and trash removal.
5. Providing more visual pictures of crimes committed on digital display while presenting the case.
6. Have a list of prohibited items provided to the potential jurors before entering the courthouse.
7. Please explain during orientation that many cases that we hear will include crimes that happened a year or more earlier and explain why this happens.
8. Please assure that the microphone has batteries readily and available so that everyone in the room can hear the witnesses.
9. More comfortable chairs for the variety of jurors.

## **Questions**

1. It seems like most of these cases end up becoming a true bill. For clarity purposes is hearing of these cases to ensure that they go to trial and that all charges are clear and with probable cause and should be indicted?

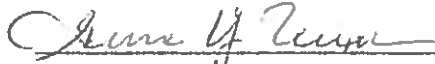
2. What are the District Attorney and the County doing to resolve the excessive backlog of cases?

### **DeKalb County Sheriff's Office**

We, the Grand Jury, after hearing several cases involving employees of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, are concerned about procedures and adherence to policy by the agency. We heard two specific cases, The State vs. Dozier and The State vs. Brown, where the defendants were employees of DKSO and seemed to have received special treatment by the Sheriff and the agency. Both defendants were investigated by OPS of the DKSO and found to have committed wrong doings. With attempts to overlook their sworn duties and behavior for their wrong doings as justifiable to be swept under the carpet with no means or forms of punishment applicable. As citizens of DeKalb County, this is not only disturbing, but also disheartening, as we expect the people in office and in leadership positions to govern and guide with honesty and integrity. We would like to see a special investigation of the DKSO completed by an outside agency, possibly federal, or even another Special Purpose Grand Jury specifically called to look further into these allegations. We also would like to see policies and procedures in place to protect evidence from the internal operations at the DeKalb County Jail. For instance, in The State vs. Dozier, it is alleged that the video of the officer restraining and using excessive force was lost by the DKSO. With the technology means we have available right now, we are unsure how this could happen. We also were informed that the DeKalb County District Attorney's office had a difficult time obtaining any evidence from the DKSO, for the cases we heard. Evidence was apparently unavailable or lost; calls and emails requesting the information were not returned. Investigating officer advised to stand-down. From our standpoint, it really appears like the lack of cooperation was covering up the wrong doings. This is very disheartening. We also feel that the DKSO would benefit from training their employees more extensively, from the very top to the very bottom. This type of behavior will not be acceptable in the eyes of the citizens of DeKalb County.



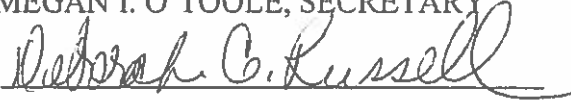
DARLENE B. ARMOUR, FOREMAN



GENISE Y. NIXON, ASST. FOREMAN



MEGAN I. O'TOOLE, SECRETARY



DEBORAH C. RUSSELL, ASST. SECRETARY

OTOR K. AL-KHALILI  
ELIZABETH CHATOV  
TRENELL T. CORNIN  
TSEHAY M. DEJACHEW  
LAURA P. FULTZ  
HERBERT D. GILCHRIST, JR.  
DAVID W. HORNE  
THOMAS D. HUTCHENS, JR.  
QUINETTA O. JONES  
JOFFRE L. KING, II  
TERRANCE LEE  
DEBORAH F. MCCRAY  
GREGORY J. MCGILL  
WILLIAM C. MONTGOMERY, JR.  
JEFFREY MORRISON  
DINORAH D. MUJICA  
DEANTREZ NORRIS  
TRACY L. SAVAGE  
ERMIAS SHIBESHI  
DARREN M. STOKES  
SHANA B. TAYLOR  
KIMBERLY E. WALLACE

**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 29<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2016.



HONORABLE LINDA W. HUNTER

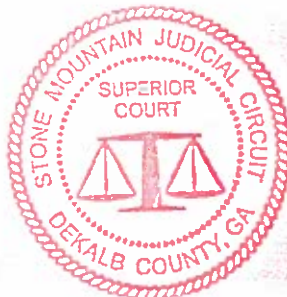
DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT  
STONE MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ACKNOWLEDGED:




ROBERT D. JAMES  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**FILED**  
2016 DEC 29 AM 11:30  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
DEKALB COUNTY GA



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 29th day of Dec 2016  
Signature:   
Deputy Clerk, DeKalb County Superior Court