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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY 6. JOANSON, CLERK RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE MAY TERM 2011

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the May

Term 2011, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on July 15,

2011, 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 July 2011.

. Carlisle Overstreet

Superior Court Judge

Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO:

The Honorable J. Carlisle Overstreet

Judge, Superior Court

FROM:

Richmond County Grand Jury

May Term 2011

DATE:

July 15, 2011

RE:

Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the May Term 2011, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. Carlisle Overstreet on the 16th day of May 2011, submit our presentment on the 15th day of July 2011, 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 Richmond County Law Enforcement Center; the report is attached.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 15th day of July 2011 and requests that it is published.

Jacqueline Maria Anderson, Foreperson

Robert E. McCrary, Jr., Asst. Foreperson

Cathy A. Kirby, Secretary

Veronica Williams

Antonio Copeland

Johnny Lyons

Carolyn Bugg

Dalsy Cousins

**** ~ . . .

Thane Plummer

Coressa Roberts

Betty M. Kennedy Betty M. Kennedy	Katheryn M. Bauer
Willie R. Callaway, Jr.	Denise Cook
Anne Hinton	Thomas M. Trainor, Jr.
Charles Kelly	Julnddyn S. Brown Gwendolyn S. Brown
Mark J. Jackson	Celia B. Mayo
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SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MAY TERM 2011 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER

On June 28, 2011, a seven-member Sub-Committee from the Grand Jury May Term 2011 toured the Charles B. Webster Detention Center on Phinizy Road in Augusta, Georgia.

We were greeted by Captain Chester V. Huffman, Jr. upon our arrival at the facility. Captain Huffman oversees the daily operations of the Detention Center and he provided a brief history of the facility since its construction in November 1997. The Detention Center was built to help with overcrowding at the Law Enforcement Center, the primary location at 401 Walton Way. The Detention Center houses non-violent and violent inmates with felony and misdemeanor charges; most are short-term sentences. Captain Huffman passed out brochures that contained general guidelines and information for the Richmond County Jails. Captain Huffman escorted the Sub-Committee members to the cafeteria designated for officers and staff. A well-balanced meal was provided.

It was clearly observed that the inmates were treated well; free to take a shower and walk around their pods with discretion. They have constant access to the telephones and televisions. They are fed three nutritious meals a day, almost identical to what staff is served with a few modifications due to safety. The inmates are allowed recreation time once a day to go into the yard for exercise and natural light exposure.

The physical condition of the pod-style building is in good condition. The 552-bed facility has four pods – three for males and one for females. The facility is under construction due to adding two housing pods, a medical mental health building and a video visitation building. The construction is scheduled to be completed in 2011, at which time the Law Enforcement Center is expected to close with those inmates being relocated to the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. The jail's current population is 564 which is overcrowded by 12. Overcrowding requires inmates to sleep on four-inch thick mattresses on the floor. The addition to the Detention Center will increase the beds by 500, including 80 to 100 for medical and mental health. More than 100 beds will be dedicated to females.

Captain Huffman shared that there is a continued concern with staff availability, although the Detention Center is safely run with twenty (20) officers per shift; a boost in staff will increase safety and security for all. Captain Huffman informed us that a lobby kiosk machine was being implemented for family members to make monetary deposits into the inmate's account for personal use. Captain Huffman expressed that his concerns with the medical budget are ongoing.

As we concluded our tour, we were able to visit one of the new pods still under construction. We also visited the female pod and observed an officer on duty. The female inmates were having lunch as we entered the pod. Captain Huffman was able to answer the Sub-Committee members' questions and concerns. Overall, the conditions of the Charles B. Webster Detention Center were well maintained and sanitary.

Sub-Committee Members: Jacqueline Maria Anderson, Katheryn M. Bauer, Denise Cook, Antonio Copeland, Anne Hilton, Mark J. Jackson, Coressa Roberts