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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

HEATHER C. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.


IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE JANUARY TERM 2012

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the January Term 2012, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on March 16, 2012, 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 16th day of March 2012.



J. David Roper
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

TO: The Honorable J. David Roper
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
January Term 2012

DATE: March 16, 2012

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the January Term 2012, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. David Roper on the 17th day of January 2012, submit our presentment on the 16th day of March 2012, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

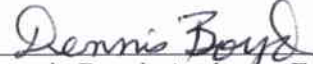
To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on nine (9) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

Sub-Committees were formed to inspect the Charles B. Webster Detention Center and the Richmond County Clerk of Superior, State and Juvenile Court; reports are attached.

Additionally, the Grand Jury appointed Cornelius D. Doolittle and Erica Gollett Steed as Members to the Richmond County Board of Equalization.

The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 16th day of March 2012 and requests that it is published.

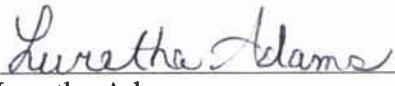

Richard A. Slaby, Jr., Foreperson

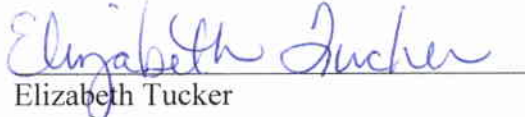

Dennis Boyd, Assistant Foreperson


Christine O'Meara, Secretary



Machele Samuels

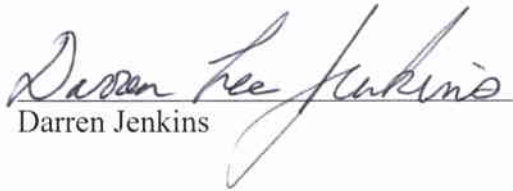

Erica Gollett Steed

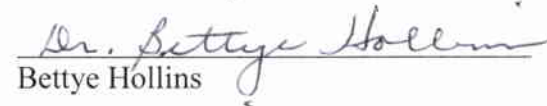

Luretha Adams

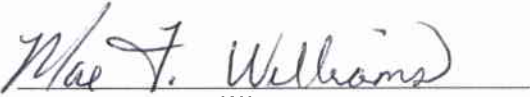

Elizabeth Tucker

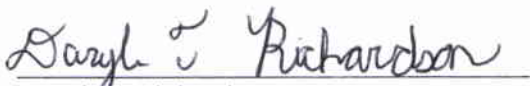

Leroy Ealy


James Sherman, III


Darren Jenkins


Bettye Hollins


Mae Frances Williams



Daryl T. Richardson


Carlos Rosas

Kathleen K. Curtis


Sabrina Heyward

Brad Usry


Jonathan Matthews


Lauren Wright


Linda G. Roberts

Chad Johnson


Beatriz Degro


Connie Herndon

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JANUARY TERM 2012 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER

On February 21, 2012, a three-member Sub-Committee from the January Term 2012 Grand Jury toured the Charles B. Webster Detention Center at 1941 Phinizy Road in Augusta, Georgia. We were greeted by Major William E. Johnson and Captain Chester V. Huffman, Jr.

The facility, classified as an adult pre-trial detention center and owned and operated by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office, opened on November 17, 1997. According to Captain Huffman, the total bed count is 1,033, but maximum capacity is 849 with 84 to 90 beds for women inmates. Of the total beds, 150 are in the medical unit with 32 mental health beds each for men and women inmates. Family member inmates are generally not housed in the same units. Approximately 15,000 inmates are annually booked into the Richmond County Jail located at 401 Walton Way. The facility is expanding and renovations are planned with Phase II to include a trustee dormitory. At the Detention Center, trustees are housed separately and are assigned work opportunities such as cooking, laundry and cleaning.

Richmond County's Recreation, Parks and Facilities Department provides electrical services while medical care and food service are outsourced.

Medical Correct Care Solutions, the medical contractor for \$4.3 million annually, employs 50 staff members, 20 of whom are at the facility during the day. For example, during the 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift, 10 to 12 staff members are working. Staff includes two mental health counselors, three nurses, a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), a Director of Nursing (DON), a Health Service Administrator (HAS), one physician and/or a PRN physician who is routinely at the facility two days per week. Contracted services include medical, dental and psychiatric care. Upon entry into the facility, inmates are screened. They must be medically accredited with a history and complete physical conducted within 14 to 21 days of incarceration. When inmates are with a healthcare provider, a guard has visual contact of the inmate at all times. University Hospital serves as a medical contractor as well.

The Sub-Committee toured the H Building, or medical unit, which houses medical and dental clinics and holding cells. The unit's day room or common area is an interior courtyard with tables and seating ringed by single-occupancy cells. Inmates sleep on concrete beds. 18 cells have double bunks and 12 strip cells are set aside for inmates who have expressed suicidal tendencies. Two cells (M10 and M11) have remote, guard-activated toilet flushing. The medical unit is staffed by two deputies 24/7. An emergency medical gate enables swift departure from the facility to the hospital, if needed.

Food Service A private food service vendor is in charge of meal provision while trustee inmates work in the kitchen preparing and serving food and cleaning. Breakfast assembly begins at 2:00 a.m. Inmates receive meals and medications, when applicable, in their "rooms" (cells). Employees eat in a small dining room adjacent to the kitchen which is where the Sub-Committee ate lunch with the Major and Captain while being oriented to the facility.

Security and Surveillance A maximum security fence borders the perimeter of the 52-acre facility. In addition to the double-layered security of two fences (14 feet) decked midway with razor wire and topped with three rows of barbed wire, a three-foot underground concrete wall lines the fence bottom. Camera monitoring and touch screen computers enhance security and surveillance. The main central control manages 60 cameras. Lights, speakers, locks, television and telephone are remotely controlled by the guards in the control towers. The Detention Center follows the four-minute rule whereby going from the end of a 1,000-ft. corridor (1/4 mile) to the central control station can be done in four minutes. The double-lock door system provides additional security between units, hallways and exits.

Disaster Preparedness Plans are compiled and entail a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with surrounding counties to provide law enforcement personnel and services. In the event of an emergency, an estimated 350 inmates can be transported via bus and van at one time.

Expansion Phase II design and development is currently underway. Anticipated improvements include expanded housing and digital technology that enables video arraignments including court hearings planned for summer 2013 and video-transmitted first court appearance and bond hearings planned within the next year. A bar-code system using wristbands will enable inmates to access their prisoner accounts through an automated commissary. Video visitation will also be available. Both of these initiatives will decrease the need for manpower.

Issues According to Captain Huffman, the biggest issue facing the Detention Center is manpower; a deputy's salary is \$27,000.00 and increases to \$29,000.00 for a trained/certified deputy.

Remarks and Observations Sub-Committee Members found the facility to be clean, well lit and relatively quiet during the two-hour visit. Personnel we met were courteous. Our guides, Major Williams and Captain Huffman, were informative, answered our questions and thoughtfully positioned themselves between us and oncoming guarded prisoners as we passed in the corridors. The provision of medical services appears adequate and well-staffed. The security measures described and observed were reassuring. The planned expansion and incorporation of additional digital technology as described to us will likely enhance efficiency and security.

Sub-Committee Members

Luretha Adams
Christine O'Meara
James Sherman, III

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JANUARY TERM 2012 GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

On January 31, 2012, a Sub-Committee from the January Term 2012 Grand Jury toured the Clerk of Court's Office. This Office handles Superior, State and Juvenile cases. They also handle child support payments.

Mrs. Elaine Johnson, the elected Clerk of these Courts, greeted the Sub-Committee Members and escorted us to their conference room which was very neat and has a 50" television on the wall to display information pertaining to their meetings. Mrs. Johnson introduced us to her management staff and each one described their job responsibilities on a daily basis.

We were then given a tour of their office. The office has property records which date from 1901. Currently, homeowners have to look through original books with gloves on. They hope to input this information in a computerized system to help homeowners get this information easier and faster.

During 2011, the Office received \$299,258.03 for recording fees, \$179,122.20 for transfer fees and \$844,157.29 for intangible taxes. The criminal division received \$551,939.09 in Superior Court files and \$4,637,929.95 in State Court fines.

Based on the financial information provided, the Sub-Committee recommends the following:

- (1) New appeals board members are needed.
- (2) The Office may face the reduction of three positions. There are additional courtrooms and personnel are needed for the additional workload. These positions should not be cut.
- (3) Install a new accounting system. This will eliminate mathematical errors and ease the work involved to account for revenue and expenses of the Clerk's Office. The Financial Reports for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 contained mathematical errors. The Sub-Committee received a revised copy of the 2011 Report but not of the 2010 year. (Copies of the 2010 and 2011 Financial Reports are attached to this Report.)
- (4) Use new technology to increase efficiency.
- (5) Continue the recycle program whereby containers are utilized for discarded paper.

Sub-Committee Members

Dennis Boyd
Beatriz Degro
Linda G. Roberts
Carlos Rosas
Mae Frances Williams

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JANUARY TERM 2012
GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR,
STATE & JUVENILE COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY
OFFICES**

On the afternoon of January 31, 2012, a sub-committee of the January Term 2012 Grand Jury visited the Clerk of Superior, State & Juvenile Court of Richmond County offices. We were greeted by Elaine C. Johnson and her staff and assembled in their conference room. I was very impressed by their professionalism. Mrs. Johnson provided each one of the sub-committee members with a information packet. This packet provided us with specific information concerning the Filings and Revenues that her office processes. Also each one of her staff was able to explain every line of data. Mrs. Johnson explained each staff member's responsibilities and duties.

Mrs. Johnson led us through their improvements with the new facility. They needed this new office to process all the different information needed to run this office.

After our meeting, we were given a tour of the entire office . I was overwhelmed with all records and Fillings handled by this office.

Most important there was mention of possible cuts in her office, I hope this does not happen. These cuts will slow up the productivity of this office.

Thank You,
Carlos Rosas

January 31, 2012