

FILED

OCT 5 2012

Rhonda G. Payne, Clerk  
Superior & State Court  
Douglas County, GA

**DOUGLAS COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**APRIL TERM 2012**

**GRAND JURY REPORT**

We the Grand Jury, having been selected and chosen for the April 2012 Term of the Superior Court of Douglas County, Georgia, were sworn in by Judge Robert J. James in April, 2012. Officers were elected, duties explained, and handbooks distributed for study and reference. This document reports our findings of facts during our tenure as a Grand Jury, along with any recommendations or observations we may have to the County.

**INDICTMENTS**

This term the Grand Jury considered a total of 291 Special Presentations of which 291 were returned as True Bills.

**EVIDENCE SUBPOENAS**

This term 153 evidence subpoenas were brought to the attention of the Grand Jury and tabled and continued to the October 2012 Term of the Douglas County Grand Jury.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

We, the Grand Jury would like to express our appreciation and thanks to the District Attorney, David McDade, and his entire staff in their support, diligence, advice, patience and professionalism in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. We were impressed with the performance of all the Assistant District Attorneys. We would like to thank Cindy Foran and Tammie Agan for their support, attention and courtesy to this jury.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

We, the April Grand Jury, would like to compliment and commend the many law enforcement officers and special investigators from the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, the City of Douglasville Police Department, along with any other jurisdiction/departments or Members of Law Enforcement who presented to the Grand Jury. We applaud your dedication, professionalism, attitude, knowledge, patience and responsiveness during your informative presentations.

We would also like to express our thanks and appreciation to our Bailiffs Owen Davidson, Bill Gouge and their team for serving us in such an excellent and professional manner.

### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

While the April 2012 Grand Jury acknowledges the services of Sheriff Phil Miller and the staff and officers of the Sheriff's Department, and is appreciative of the changes in the operation and performance of units within the department, especially the medical staff, we suggest that consideration be given for further attention, review and inspection to ensure public confidence is effectively met and expectations exceeded.

### **DOUGLASVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

We would like to express our appreciation for the professionalism and dedication of Chief Chris Womack and the officers of the Douglasville Police Department for their knowledge, courtesy and dedication in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. All of their presentations made during testimony to the jury were excellent and concise.

## VILLA RICA POLICE DEPARTMENT

We want to thank Chief Michael Mansour and the officers, investigators and staff for their roles in serving and protecting the community. Their role in providing safety and protection to Douglas County residents is appreciated. Presentations made to the Grand Jury were professional and informative.

## OBSERVATIONS

The following is observations made by the Grand Jury:

- There is reason we believe that the organization, policies and procedures of the Douglas County Jail System need further, detailed review. While some very much needed changes have occurred, we believe that the desired outcomes have not been satisfactorily met.
- Some department leadership at the Douglas County Sheriff's Department does not appear as strong or as effective as desired. There was much evidence of individual egoism, aloofness and lack of responsiveness or concern to citizens. There appears to be inconsistency and lack of follow-up in some cases that we heard. Effective communications up and down the chain of command need significant improvement.
- This jury heard far too many cases of repeat offenders committing child molestation, assault, weapons violation and other serious felonies. The system appears much too ready to return felons to the street where they endanger citizens and repeat similar crimes.
- The Grand Jury heard many cases of doctor shopping. Please see recommendation Number Six in regards to updating pharmacy software.

- The District Attorney, Assistant District Attorneys, Investigators, Police Officers and Personnel providing testimony were always available, ready and prepared to present charges. Presentations were always thorough and professional and questions from the jury well received and handled. Thusly, a large number of cases could be heard and acted on.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The April 2012 Grand Jury would like to make the following recommendations based on our recommendations as made during our tenure. It is hoped that these suggestions will be received and investigated as necessary in the same respectful manner in which they are made.

1. It is strongly recommended that the current Mayor and City Council carefully scrutinize the current pay system in which they are compensated. With the recent indictment of former Mayor Mickey Thompson, the current pay system is obviously subject to abuse. Also, we highly recommend that the current pay system be abolished and replaced with a pay system that is reflective of every other city in the State of Georgia. This new pay system should be established and put into practice no later than the first day of the new term for those council members elected November 5, 2013 to represent Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3 Post 1, and Ward 3 Post 2, and again implemented on the first day of the new term for the office of Mayor and for those council members elected on November 3, 2015 to represent Ward 4, Ward 5 Post 1, and Ward 5 Post 2. Furthermore, the April 2012 Grand Jury calls for any City Council person who received payment for any meeting identified by the GBI as being unauthorized to immediately return all money with no regard to whether or not criminal charges are forthcoming.

2. We ask that the District Attorney quickly review with the October 2012 Grand Jury the recommendations made by the April 2012 Grand Jury and take action as appropriate made by the April 2011 Grand Jury that were not acted upon by the October 2011 Grand Jury.
3. The April 2012 Grand Jury recommends that the District Attorney and incoming Grand Jury investigate and review the policies, procedures and practices of the Sheriff's Department and the Douglas County Jail System. A focus should be on the supervisory and medical staff to assess if those changes are functioning as desired. Current cases show there is still room for improvement.
4. Communications up and down the chain of command in the Sheriff's Department and the Douglas County Jail need improvement. Upper management must be made better aware of activities occurring that may have repercussions and consequences. There should be no fear of retaliation or reprimand for reporting an incident. A method to review materials placed in files must be implemented as part of a communications improvement protocol.
5. The April 2012 Grand Jury recommends that the District Attorney and incoming Grand Jury investigate, review, and implement changes to the current internal security policies, procedures, and practices in regards to all government employees and departments. It is our recommendation that all employees of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners have active and proper employee identification visible while in the act of handling official business.

6. It is the recommendation of this Grand Jury that all County and City pharmacies be required to use adequate technology and software that would allow communication and sharing of records between the doctor and pharmacy when prescribing any medication for a patient.

#### **GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION**

We the Grand Jury would like to recommend this presentation be published in the local paper as authorized by law.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The April 2012 Grand Jury would like to thank the citizens of Douglas County for the opportunity of serving on their behalf. The jury has felt honored and privileged to be a part of the Douglas County Judicial System. Further, we encourage all qualified citizens to readily accept the opportunity to serve on a Grand Jury.

Respectfully submitted,

The April 2012 Grand Jury

GRAND JURY  
APRIL TERM, 2012

Heather George, Foreperson  
HEATHER GEORGE, FOREPERSON

Ayesha Miles  
AYESHA MILES

Benonia Konadu  
BENONIA KONADU

Henderson Boswell  
HENDERSON BOSWELL

Jason Watson  
JASON WATSON

Torey Davis  
TOREY DAVIS

Cheryl S. Williams  
CHERYL S. WILLIAMS

Richard Oyler  
RICHARD OYLER

Tabitha Frederick  
TABITHA FREDERICK

Eddie Johnson  
EDDIE JOHNSON

Charlotte Marie Stirman  
CHARLOTTE MARIE STIRMAN

Brenda Joyce Little  
BRENDA JOYCE LITTLE, VICE FOREPERSON

Marion Roger Steele  
MARION ROGER STEELE

Joshua Clendenin  
JOSHUA CLENDENIN

Lawrence M. Wood  
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Jill L. Galens  
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Byron D. Knight  
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Sandra H. Williams  
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