

 ORIGINAL

FILED

MAR 30 2012

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

DOUGLAS COUNTY  
OCTOBER TERM 2011  
GRAND JURY REPORT

We, the Grand Jury, having been selected and chosen for the October 2011 Term of the Superior Court of Douglas County, were sworn in by Judge David Emerson in October 2011. The jury officers were elected, duties explained and handbooks distributed to all members. This Grand Jury Report summarizes and reports our findings of fact during our tenure as a Grand Jury, along with any recommendations or observations we have to the Court and the County. It has been our honor and privilege to represent and serve the citizens of Douglas County.

INDICTMENTS

During the term of the October Grand Jury we considered a total of 280 Special Presentations of which 279 were returned as True Bills having been judged to have shown Probable Cause and 1 returned as a No Bill.

EVIDENCE SUBPOENAS

This term 166 evidence subpoenas were brought before the October 2011 Grand Jury.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT

We, the October 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 and the Villa Rica Police Department for their professionalism, attitude, knowledge, patience and responsiveness in their informative presentations.

We would also like to express our thanks and appreciation to our Bailiff Bill Gouge and his team for serving us in an excellent and professional manner.

### SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

While the October 2011 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 are observations made by this 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 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 needs 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 streets where they endanger citizens and repeat similar crimes.

The Grand Jury heard many cases of metal theft with the material being sold to recyclers. These buyers of stolen material should bear some responsibility for purchasing stolen property.

The Grand Jury is responsible to appoint members to the county Board of Assessors. There were no stated requirements, background or experience defined as necessary for candidates to fill the functions of the Board of Assessors.

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 upon.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The October 2011 Grand Jury would like to make the following recommendations based on our observations 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. We ask that the District Attorney quickly review with the April 2012 Grand Jury the recommendations made by the October 2011 Grand Jury and take action as appropriate. We also ask that the District Attorney review the recommendations made by the April 2011 Grand Jury that were not acted upon by the October 2011 Grand Jury.
2. The October 2011 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 changes implemented in the medical staff to assess if those changes are functioning as desired.
3. Training, review and evaluation is recommended for all jail personnel to ensure that the public is being treated with respect, care and concern. This applies from the person meeting citizens in the lobby area, to officers and management. This should also include mandatory sensitivity/diversity training on a regular basis.
4. The October 2011 Grand Jury recommends that charges be brought on any individuals suspected of negligence of duties, personal misconduct or reckless behavior as found in the November 4, 2009 death of an inmate. We believe that further charges may be warranted for others as deemed necessary.
5. Licenses of professionals (LPNs, EMTs, MDs, RNs, etc.) found guilty of charges or found negligent in their duties should be recommended for revocation. These personnel should not be retained or rehired in other positions within the county system.
6. Communications up and down the chain-of-command in the Sheriff's Department and the Douglas County Jail needs 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.

7. Improved camera observations as well as additional cameras are needed in the county jail to better monitor, observe, listen and respond to activities. Audio capability should be added so as to hear activities occurring especially within isolation units.
8. All personnel are to be reminded on a regular basis of their ability and responsibility to call 911 or to alert other staff and management for a perceived emergency without fear of consequences.
9. The October 2011 Grand Jury recommends that Douglas County require that all purchasers of scrap metal obtain a digital or other photo capture and fingerprints for all persons approaching to sell any metals.
10. We recommend that some minimal requirements be established and communicated for service on the Douglas County Board of Assessors.

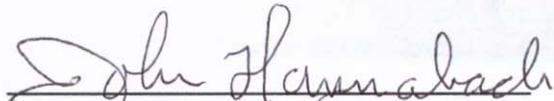
### CONCLUSION

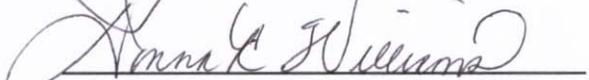
The October 2011 Grand Jury would like to thank the citizens of Douglas County for the opportunity of serving on their behalf. The jury has felt honored and privileged to be a part of the Douglas County Judicial System. Further, we encourage all qualified citizens to readily accept the opportunity to serve on a Grand Jury.

Respectfully submitted,

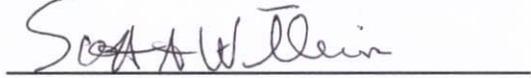
The October 2011 Grand Jury

GRAND JURY  
OCTOBER TERM, 2011

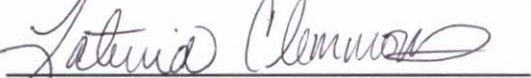
  
JOHN HANNABACH, FOREPERSON

  
DONNA R. WILLIAMS, VICE FOREPERSON

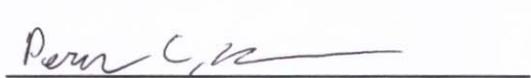
  
DEBORAH L. FRANCIS, SECRETARY

  
SCOTT WILLIAMS

  
JAMES C. MILLER

  
LATERIA CLEMMONS

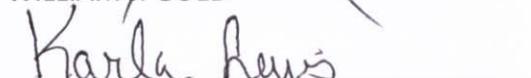
  
DOUG BURDA

  
PERCY TOWNS

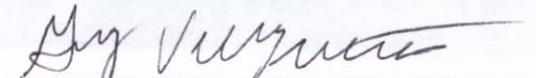
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LORNA BEST

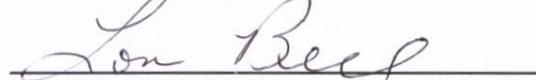
  
LEONARD BARBER

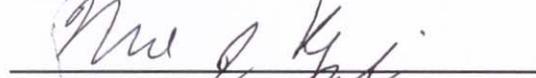
  
WILLIAM J. GOLD

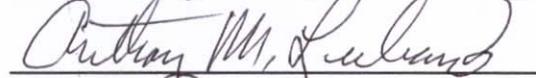
  
KARLA LEWIS

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TIM OWENS

  
GREG VELLIQUETTE

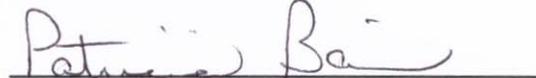
  
LON BELL

  
MICHAEL J. RUGGIERO

  
ANTHONY LUBRANO

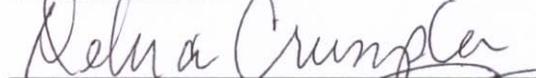
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LARRY M. TEATE

  
ANDREA L. LAMBERT

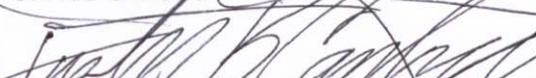
  
PATRICIA BAIN

  
CALEB CARTER

  
LAURA E. ROAN

  
DEBRA CRUMPLER

  
GRACE OWUSU

  
DUSTY B. CANTRELL