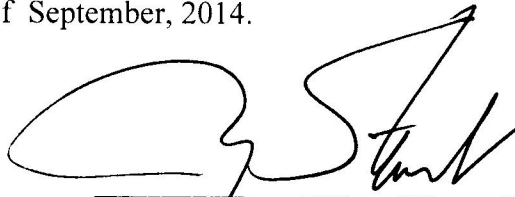


## ORDER FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION OF GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

The above and foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury for the February Term, 2014, of the Superior Court of Liberty County having been presented to the Court, it is hereby ordered that said presentments shall be filed by the Clerk of Superior Court and published in the legal organ of said county in the manner provided by law for legal advertisements.

So ordered on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable D. Jay Stewart  
Judge of Superior Court,  
Atlantic Judicial Circuit of Georgia

FILED-OFFICE OF CLERK  
LIBERTY SUPERIOR, STATE  
JUV. & MAGISTRATE COURT  
2014 SEP -2 PM 4:47

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LIBERTY COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

FEBRUARY TERM, 2014

FILED OFFICE OF CLERK  
LIBERTY SUPERIOR, STATE  
JUV. & MAGISTRATE COURT

2014 AUG 29 PM 3:00

We, the Liberty County Grand Jury for the February 2014 term convened on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Liberty County Courthouse. After having been duly selected and impaneled, the body was sworn in by Judge D. Jay Stewart. At which time Stewart instructed the members of the Grand Jury in its duties and responsibilities. The jury consisted of twenty-three members whose names are contained in Exhibit A hereto.

On February 10 as well as June 13, 2014, the Grand Jury heard presentations of a number of indictments by the Atlantic Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office. The Grand Jury returned True Bills on a number of the indictments.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 0900 hrs, members of the Liberty County Grand Jury for the February, 2014 term convened at the Liberty County Courthouse. We were met by Mr. Barry Wilkes who explained the process of appointing members to the Board of Equalization. Two Grand Jury members previously volunteered for this appointment. The matter was tabled until the Grand Jury convenes on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Following a discussion on the Board of Equalization, members of the Grand Jury proceeded to the Liberty County Jail for an inspection/tour. We were met by the new Jail Administrator Major Jeff Hein. Major Hein gave a brief overview of the operations of the jail and then took the jury members on a guided tour. Captain Lisa Boyd also assisted in the tour and provided information on several areas of the operation. Several of the jury members were surprised to learn how large the jail is and how many different offices are housed within the jail complex. The county detective's office shares space in the main building and Magistrate Judges have their dedicated workspace as well as a courtroom. The facilities appear to well maintained and clean. The jail is showing its age in some areas but renovations are on going to ensure the facilities are operational, safe and secure. The jail administration is constantly looking for ways to save money and to prevent the taxpayer from being burdened with expenses related to the purchase of non-essential items for the inmates. For example, the jail commissary provides a means for inmates to purchase toiletry items as well as t-shirts, undershorts, socks and snacks. The profits from these sales have been used to purchase new mattresses for the jail as well as provide cable TV and recreational items. Whenever possible, these funds are used in lieu of tax dollars to provide health and welfare items for the inmates that otherwise would be purchased with tax dollars or not at all.

We were shown the kitchen area which was very clean and spoke with the staff who are responsible for preparing three meals a day; per inmate. Specialty meals are available for those inmates with specific dietary needs. The dishwashing area is having a problem with mold and a solution has been found that includes spraying the walls with a rubberized material that will resist mold and mildew. A company has been contracted for the work and it should be completed in the near future.

We met with the medical staff which is at the jail 18 hours a day, with limited coverage from 12:00 am until 06:00 am. During the times when medical staff is not present, a system is in place where the inmate can be evaluated via video conference by a medical professional and if deemed necessary, transported for treatment.

As we walked through the jail, inmates were observed to be in clean and secure surroundings. Several control areas have large screens that monitor security cameras that are located at numerous points throughout the facility. It was noted that most of the cameras are black and white while some are color. Major Hein explained that the black and white cameras are being phased out and when a camera is replaced due to a mechanical/electrical failure, it is replaced with a color camera. The difference between the two camera views was quite noticeable and the color cameras offer a much better quality in the event an incident occurs and the video needs to be researched. The black and white resolution is poor and appears pixilated when viewed side by side with the color cameras. The jury members agreed the cameras need to be updated as finances are made available to do so. Another issue with the camera system is the retention period of the video recordings. With so many cameras running simultaneously, the need for storage space for the videos is in high demand. The current system loops every four days which means if an incident is brought to the attention of jail staff five days after occurring, there would be no way to view the incident because the video may have been written over. A recommendation for more storage space for the camera system was something the jury members agreed on.

Another issue that was noted is the need for additional man-power in the jail. Without disclosing in this document how many employees are staffing each shift, due to security concerns, it was noted that there are four shifts rotating on a four day on, four day off schedule. Major Hein was asked if he had sufficient personnel to run the jail efficiently. He said his employees are doing a great job and suggested that if he had two more employees he could create a "power shift" from 8 to 5, Monday through Friday. The busiest time for the jail is during the day when all of the inmates are up and moving about. This is also the time when doctor appointments, jail appearances and other judicial proceedings are taking place. The addition of two extra jailers would allow for personnel to be assigned more efficiently and provide for enhanced security. Also, it was noted the maintenance of the jail complex is a huge task and as the facility ages, it becomes even more problematic. An additional maintenance worker added to the staff would have an added benefit of increasing the longevity of some of the systems in the jail by ensuring ongoing maintenance is scheduled and performed as required.

The Grand Jury members were impressed with the operation of the jail and the great attitude of jail personnel. Every employee was professional and courteous throughout the tour and answered our questions without hesitation. Based on our observations it appears that the Sheriff's Department, under the leadership of Sheriff Sikes, is operating a professionally staffed, secure county jail. The tour ended at approximately 11:30 am and the Grand Jury adjourned for the day.



Billy R. Kirkendall

Grand Jury Foreperson