


**ORDER FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION OF GRAND JURY
PRESENTMENTS**

The above and foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury for the February Term, 2018, 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 14 day of August, 2018.



Honorable Robert L. Russell III
Judge of Superior Court,
Atlantic Judicial Circuit of Georgia



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JUV. & MAGISTRATE COURT
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LIBERTY SUPERIOR, STATE
JUV. & MAGISTRATE COURT

To: **The Clerk of Superior Court**

From: Gloria J. Brown

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July 23, 2018

Subject: Grand Jury

The Grand Jury met on 12-13 February 2018 and 7 May 2018 below are the number of true bill and no bills we had during our term.

12-13 February 2018=216 True Bills and 2 No Bills

7 May 2018=133 True Bills and 8 No Bills

We inspected three areas during our tour of duty on May 8, 2018. They are as follows:

Probate Judge Office, Clerk of Superior Court, and the County Sherriff Office

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (912) 876-3292, (912) 977-3496 or email me at jeanbabygirl5@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Gloria J. Brown

Gloria J. Brown
Foreperson

July 23, 2018

Grand Jury Presentments

February Term 2018

We, the Liberty County Grand Jury for the February 2018 term convened on February 12-13, 2018 at the Liberty County Courthouse. After being selected and impaneled, the panel was sworn in by Judge Robert L. Russell. Then, Judge Robert L. Russell instructed the members of the Grand Jury of their duties and responsibilities expected to be carried out during the term of duty. The jury selected consists of twenty-three members whose names are contained in Exhibit A hereto.

On February 12-13, 2018, 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 as well as No Bills on a number of indictments.

On May 7, 2018 the Grand Jury members returned to continue their assigned duties of hearing more indictments. After that, the Grand Jury Foreperson organized a committee to inspect three local offices. Through the February and May duties, the Grand Jury heard and returned a total of 359 presentments.

On May 8, 2018 the Grand Jurors met to inspect the Probate Judge Office, Clerk of Superior Court, and the County Sherriff Office (Inspections Attached).

In conclusion, each office that was inspected and observed was fully functional with no major needs for improvement. There is opportunity for minor adjustments and the various staff members informed the grand jurors that the needed items were being proposed in the upcoming budget or being evaluated as needed.

Gloria J. Brown

Gloria J. Brown
Grand Jury Foreperson

Debra D. Stevenson

Clerk

July 23, 2018

February 2018 Grand Jury Panel Liberty County, Georgia

Exhibit A

Gloria J. Brown
Foreperson

Sarah M. Bonilla
Assistant, Foreperson

Annie A. Price
Assistant, Secretary/Clerk

Debra D. Stevenson
Clerk

Trace W. Barrow

Roneisha L. Carter

Veronica N. Conyers

Robert L. Daniel

Megan Dooley

Tunesia Downer

Steven A. Fitton II

David S. Hayes

Stephanie E. Howard

Lennys J. Ibarra

Phyliss H. Kazee

Cora L. Lain

Valiant D. Lyte Sr.

Liza T. Nicola

Troy M. Miller

Clara S. Shuman

Marquetta E. Walton

Valerie V. Wanzie

Curtis A. Watson

Sincerely,

Gloria J. Brown

Gloria J. Brown
Foreperson

July 23, 2018

Inspection of the Clerk of Superior Courts

On May 8, 2018 nine members of the Grand Jury requested to inspect the Clerk of Superior Courts. The Grand Jury was greeted by Linda D. Thompson and her office staff. They each explained their duties and responsibilities. During the inspection the office was clean and presentable to the public. Ms. Thompson explained that this office handles the filing of various court documents such as: criminal and civil records. Also, Juvenile, Magistrate Court, State, Superior Court Cases, Real Estate, and Deeds are filed and kept in vaults. The Grand Jury was shown where the records were kept. The filing system seemed to be adequate for the amount of records that needed to be stored. Additional records are boxed up and sent to storage periodically or as necessary. No negative items stood out during the inspection and the county employees were very friendly.

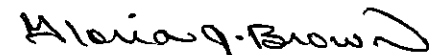
A copy of the Superior Court Financial Report for July 17, 2017- December 17, 2017 was provided and signed by Linda D. Thompson in the Grand Jury Reference Book. **The General Account Fund # 103 (Disbursable within 30 Days) Beginning Balance:** July 17, 2017 was \$2,441,174.51 and **Ending Balance:** December 17, 2017 was \$0. **The Escrow Account Fund # 104 (Court Registry) Beginning Balance:** July 17, 2017 was \$777,076.32 and **Ending Balance:** December 17, 2017 was \$706,330.59.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Gloria J. Brown, Foreperson
Sarah M. Bonilla, Assistant Foreperson
Robert L. Daniel
Tunesia Downer
David S. Hayes
Stephanie E. Howard
Valiant D. Lyte Sr.
Annie A. Price, Assistant Secretary/Clerk
Debra D. Stevenson, Clerk

Sincerely,

Gloria J. Brown


Foreperson

July 23, 2018

Inspection of Probate Judge

On May 8, 2018 nine members of the grand jury inspected the Office of Probate Judge. The office is located on the 2nd floor of the courthouse in downtown Hinesville. Judge Nancy K. Aspinwall was our point of contact for the tour. Judge Aspinwall informed the group that this office handles account returns, wills, assets, temporary guardianships, birth/death certificates, and a variety of other services for the citizens of Hinesville.

Judge Aspinwall informed the grand jury group of the various programs that the county offers to help citizens that are in need. There are trailers for the homeless to assist them as they transition to a home. A call-line is available for patients that might need a hospital bed. Respite care apartments for families that might need respite assistance.

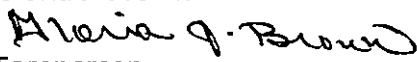
Overall the office was clean and presentable to the public. The working area was well organized and seemed to be running smoothly. No negative items stood out during the inspection and the employees were very friendly.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Gloria J. Brown, Foreperson
Sarah M. Bonilla, Assistant Foreperson
Robert L. Daniel
Tunesia Downer
David S. Hayes
Stephanie E. Howard
Valiant D. Lyte Sr.
Annie A. Price, Assistant Secretary/Clerk
Debra D. Stevenson, Clerk

Sincerely,

Gloria J. Brown


Foreperson

July 23, 2018

Inspection of Sherriff's Office

On May 8, 2018 nine members of the Grand Jury inspected the Sherriff's Office. During the inspection the office was clean and presentable to the public. This office handles various aspects of the Hinesville police force. The sheriff's office serves papers, transports citizens, patrols the streets, files firearm fingerprints, collects vehicle crash reports, registers sex offenders, etc. There are approximately 65 employees at the jail. The jail spends about \$4,000 per week on meals for the inmates.

Chief Deputy Jon Long was our point of contact for the tour. He stated that the annual budget process was coming up in July 2018. Some of the items on the budget were new police cars, new record management software, updates to the vendor software, and a drone to help with manhunts. Officer Sikes stated that patrol cars are a major expense because they wear out fast. Although the costs have somewhat stabilized since transitioning the vehicle fleet to Dodge vs. Ford. From a budget perspective, payroll is another major expense for the department. All employees did receive a merit increase in Jan 2018. Health insurance rates are steadily increasing year after year. Overall the annual budget for the Sherriff's Office was approximately \$10 million dollars.

Statistical Data FYTD (July 2017 to March 2018)

1,716 Individuals were transported for 115,154 miles and 3,870 man hours

118 Mental health transports for 20,135 miles and 438 man hours

5,875 Papers served

5,970 Calls dispatched

109 Felony arrests

600 Misdemeanor traffic arrests

67 Warrants served

8,144 Business checks

522 House checks

6,676 Traffic stops

1,169 Firearms applications filed

572 Crash reports filed

553 Narcotics Cases

172 Sex offender registrations

118 Mental health transports

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Gloria J. Brown, Foreperson

Sarah M. Bonilla, Assistant Foreperson

Robert L. Daniel

Tunesia Downer

David S. Hayes

Stephanie E. Howard


Valiant D. Lyte Sr.

Annie A. Price, Assistant Secretary/Clerk

Debra D. Stevenson, Clerk

Sincerely,

Gloria J. Brown


Foreperson