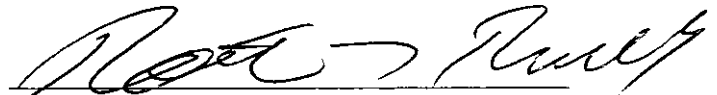


**ORDER FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION OF GRAND JURY
PRESENTMENTS**

The above and foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury for the September Term 2015, 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 1 day of February, 2016



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

FILED OFFICE OF CLERK
LIBERTY SUPERIOR COURT
JUV. & MAGISTRATE COURT
2016 FEB - 1 AM 10:10
CL

Grand Jury Presentments

September Term, 2015

We, the Liberty County Grand Jury for the September 2015 term convened on September 14-15, 2015 at the Liberty County Courthouse. After having been duly selected and impaneled, the body was sworn in by Judge Robert L. Russell. At this time Judge Robert L. Russell instructed the members of the Grand Jury in the duties and responsibilities expected to be carried out during the term of duty. The jury consisted of twenty-three members whose names are contained in Exhibit A hereto.

On September 14-15, 2015, 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 September 14, 2015 at 0900 hrs, members of the Liberty County Grand Jury for the September 2015 term convened at the Liberty County Courthouse. Members were met by a member of the clerk's office who explained the process of appointing members to the Board of Equalization. Appointment of members was maintained by equal agreement of the Grand Jury board on November 18, 2015 when Grand Jurors met again to inspect local offices.

On November 17-18, 2015, jury members returned to continue their assigned task of hearing several more indictments. Through the September and November duties, the Grand Jury heard and returned indictments on a total of 88 presentments.

On November 18, 2015, the Grand Jury Foreman organized teams to inspect local offices. These inspections included the District Attorney's office, the County Commissioner's Office, the Liberty County Jail, the Clerk of Superior Courts, the Probate Judge and the Tax Commissioners Office (Inspections Attached).

Overall, each office inspected and each area observed was documented in working order with no dramatic needs for improvement, just some minor needs for either more space or an addition of employees needed to carry the increasing workload.

Paul D. Lucas

Grand Jury Foreperson



Lakisha S. Tooley

Clerk

EXHIBIT A

September Term Panel of the Liberty County, Georgia Grand Jury

Paul D. Lucas Jr. (Foreperson)
Kirk A. Hill

Lakisha S. Tooley (Clerk)
Johnny L. Johnson

Lear B. Jelks (Assistant Clerk)
Cathy W. Lane

James D. Atkinson Jr.
Laverne A. McGary

Mary K. Brown
Annette G. Miller

Arthee Davis Jr.
David A. Miller

Jean B. Eskridge
Alicia K. Mixwell

William N. Fleming
Ezra A. Muino

Gloria E. Garcia
Davina Y. Ortiz

Jeffrey E. Glandon
Lynn Regan

Maggie E. Havener
Christopher Roberts

Rondy M. Shaver

The office of the Liberty County Commissioner was inspected on November 18, 2015 at approximately 9:30AM. Upon entry to the office, the inspection team noted that the office was clean and orderly and the staff was polite and accommodating. Ms. Evelyn Jackson, Administrative Clerk, contacted Bob Sprinkle, Assistant County Administrator, to meet with the inspection team. Mr. Sprinkle welcomed the Grand Jury inspection team and invited them down to the conference room stopping by the break room to offer the group coffee.

Mr. Sprinkle began the meeting by explaining to the team the chain of command within the office of the County Commissioner and about the duties and responsibilities of his office. When asked how he felt things were going in his office and if there was anything that he felt the Grand Jury could do to help him, he reported that the County Commissioner's office is running smoothly and as far as the committee could see, things looked to be in order. Mr. Sprinkle did say that the office, as with many other county offices, had been hit hard by budget cuts, but that the elected officials do everything in their power to take care of them and get them everything that they need.

Upon asking Mr. Sprinkle if there was anything else of interest that he would like to share with the team, he told us about an innovative, award winning program that he started to help make sure county employees stayed healthy. Due to the fact that county employees seemed to be working harder than normal due to staffing shortages, Mr. Sprinkle decided it would be a good idea to start a company wellness program. This program was established to benefit the whole person to include their financial, mental, and physical health and was opened to all county employees who were interested in participating. The employees who accumulated the most points in the program were given awards and recognition for their accomplishments. Mr. Sprinkle stated that the county has seen a direct correlation between this wellness program and a decrease in their company health insurance premiums. Mr. Sprinkle's innovative program has been one of only two in the state of Georgia to win \$5000 to help fund their wellness initiatives.

Mr. Sprinkle and his staff were very positive and accommodating. It is the report of this Grand Jury inspection team that this office is not only in good working order, but they are going above and beyond what is necessary to run this office with the resources with which they have been provided.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Cathy W. Lane, Chairman

Jean B. Eskridge

William N. Fleming

Davina Y. Ortiz

Inspection of District Attorney

On November 18, 2015 members of the grand juror inspected the District Attorney's office. Upon inspection the members found that the office space was clean and suitable to work in. The only negative was that the work load could become a problem in the future for the few employees that work there.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Kirk Hill, Chairman

Jeffrey Glandon

Maggie Havener

Randy Shaver

Inspection of Probate Judge

On November 18, 2015, three members of the grand jury were requested to inspect the office of the Probate Judge. The Probate Judge is located on the second floor of the new courthouse in downtown Hinesville. Upon entrance of the office and waiting area, we were greeted by the front receptionist, signed in accordingly and waited for Judge Nancy K. Aspinwall.

Judge Aspinwall was our main point of contact and proceeded to take us into a conference room where she began to tell us that the room was used for several things, including working on caseloads, hearings, conference calls, a library and just an overall multi-purpose room. Judge Aspinwall went on to inform us that the office of the Probate Judge handles wills, administration, adult and minor guardianship, account returns, inventory, personal status (Guardian), assets, conservatorship settlements, temporary guardianship, birth/death certificates and several other areas of need of the public.

Judge Aspinwall also mentioned the need for funding for more equipment/technology to keep up with the increase of caseloads as well as more space for records (Rotomate-Mechanical Carousel) in the file room and the amount of paperwork that comes in daily.

As we ended our conversation, Judge Aspinwall gave us a tour of the offices inside the Probate court including the court itself. There are six members under the direction of Judge Aspinwall. Every member seemed to have an area of responsibility within each office area, whether it is taking care of purchases, books, vendors, microfilming, weapons permits or control of public records. Judge Aspinwall also mentioned an increase need for more staff to keep up with the amount of paperwork and concerns of the public.

Overall the office of the Probate Judge was very well maintained and the working environment was well organized, managed and in order. All the staff that the jurors met were welcoming, professional and accommodated the unscheduled tour with no difficulty.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Lakisha Tooley, Chairman

Johnny Johnson

Gloria Garcia

Inspection of Tax Commissioner

Our group inspected the following offices on the 18th November 2015, Accounting and Tag Office in Liberty County.

Property Tax Office:

Two to three employee's work in this office, responsible for collecting money owed by property owners; both personal and real property by Jan 1st of that tax year. Liberty county property taxes are due by the 20th December, if not paid the property may be levied upon and ultimately sold. Mobile home owners must pay by May 1st and obtain their location permit at that time also, standing timber is not taxed until sold or harvested, and at which time it is taxed based on 100 percent of its fair market value then multiplied by the mill rate to determine the tax amount due.

They have records dating as far back as the early 1900's maintained at the tag office. All records are packaged and sent off by courier to a holding area for 7 years. They do not handle appeals they are sent to the Tax Assessor's Office.

Tag Office:

Six employee's work together issuing tags both to the military members and residence of Liberty County. This office takes in between \$34,000 to \$50,000 a year.

Summary:

They have expanded the payment options to either online, debit/credit cards for a small fee or the traditional cash payment.

The major revenue producer is generated by Property Tax.

Due to the military and expanding growth of residence in Liberty County the tag office is overwhelmed the first of the month and military pay days as well as twice a year for property tax. The lines can be seen out the door and down the sidewalk.

Due to the work load employees find themselves working between the two offices as well as afterhours up to 30minutes many days.

Offices were well maintained with very little clutter, there was a little more clutter in the tag office but considering the work load it's to be expected. A larger work / storage area would alleviate this.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

David Miller, Chairman

Alicia Mixell

Ezra Muino

Inspection of the Liberty County Jail

On 18 November 2015, three members of the Grand Jury requested to inspect the Liberty County Jail. The Liberty County Jail is co-located with the Detective's Office in a large complex off of Airport Road in Hinesville, GA. Initial appearance of the entrance and waiting area was that it is well maintained and clean. From the perspective of the jurors, the offices are well staffed and seemed capable of maintaining oversight of their operations during the time of the inspection. The Jail has been operating at this location since 1995 and did not seem to be run down or out of date in any way. *Our tour of the facility was conducted by Captain Lisa Boyd, Assistant Jail Administrator.* She requested one of the deputies to accompany us on the tour of our safety. Inside the jail corridors and common areas, the jurors noticed that it was kept very clean and the floors were buffed to a shine. CPT Boyd explained that the inmates have duties of maintaining the cleaning of the facility. There were several different rooms that inmates were permitted to use for communicating with visitors via phone and face to face through the glass.

The kitchen and food preparation area is run by contracted workers where they prepare three meals a day, one cold and two hot, for the inmates staying at the facility. On any given day, the staff typically prepares meals for approximately 200 inmates. The jurors noticed the Food Safety Inspection form on the wall gave the kitchen a rating of a 98. The kitchen staff said it would have been a 100 but there was a small pipe leak under one of the prep sinks that they are fixing. CPT Boyd said that they are strictly monitored and that they maintain tight control over regulations in the kitchen area, such as using only one door for outgoing meals and only one door is designated for receiving used dishes and any remaining food to ensure there is no contamination in the preparation area. The kitchen supervisor showed a wrapped food tray and explained that if any of the inmates get sick and possibly claim it as food poisoning, they keep the tray for 72 hours and test it for contamination. Meals are prepared according to guidelines given by a dietician and any inmates received that have special dietary considerations based on religion or medical conditions have their meals planned accordingly.

The laundry facility is run by one of the staff and at the time of the inspection, she also had two inmates helping with laundry duties. Inmates drop off their dirty laundry and have a one for one exchange for clean laundry. The laundry operations looked efficient and well organized.

The medical station inside the jail has two full-time nurses on staff with several doctors, specializing in certain areas. There is a daily sick call run by the medical station for any of the sick inmates. Any inmates deemed acutely ill are placed in a special holding cell close to the medical station for observation and treatment as needed. Each inmate processed through the facility comes through the medical station for a check up to verify current medical condition and to assess the need of medication that they claim to be taking. Any claims of the need for medications are verified by the staff with the hospital records. CPT Boyd took the jurors to the medical records room to show the volume of records kept of the inmates. The room is well secured and the inmate's records are kept confidential.

CPT Boyd brought the jurors to several control rooms to show how the jail is monitored and observed by the staff and how the doors can be controlled and areas locked to down or opened up in case of an emergency. From the tower, the jurors were able to observe the living quarters and general areas or several inmates. The areas were well maintained. CPT Boyd said that the guards periodically place cleaning supplies in the living quarters and if the inmates keep the areas cleaned properly, they are allowed to have certain privileges. A recreation area, board games, and cards are provided to the inmates in the common areas. For those that are approved to attend, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program is available weekly.

Overall, the Liberty County Jail facilities are well maintained and the environment is secure and well managed. All staff that the jurors met with were polite and professional and accommodated the unscheduled tour with little difficulty.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Paul Lucas, Chairman
Laverne McGary
Annette Miller

Inspection of the Clerk of Superior Courts

On 18 November 2015, four members of the Grand Jury requested to inspect the Clerk of Superior Courts. Upon inspection, the team noticed that each office area and the suite was organized well and the employees were friendly and helpful. It appeared that there were enough employees to handle the work load coming into the office. No negative items stood out and the team was pleased with the overall inspection and courtesy of the county employees.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

James Atkinson, Chairman
Mary Brown
Arthee Davis
Christopher Roberts