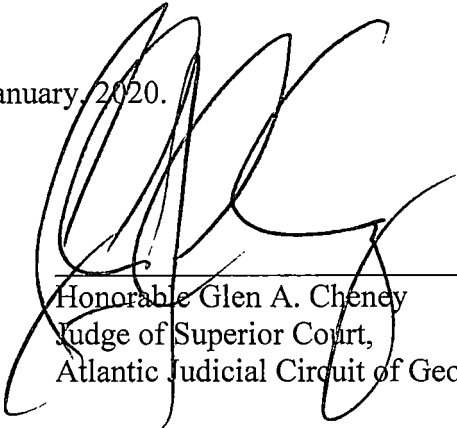


**ORDER FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION OF GRAND JURY
PRESENTMENTS**

The above and foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury for the September Term, 2019, 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 8th day of January, 2020.



Honorable Glen A. Cheney
Judge of Superior Court,
Atlantic Judicial Circuit of Georgia

CEH
FILED-OFFICE OF CLERK
LIBERTY SUPERIOR STATE
JUV. & MAGISTRATE COURT
20 JAN - 8 PM 12:44

December 9, 2019

Grand Jury Presentments September Term 2019

We, the Liberty County Grand Jury for September 2019 term convened on September 9-11, December 5, 2019 at the Liberty County Courthouse. After being selected on September 9, 2019 and impaneled, the panel was sworn in by Judge Cheney. Then, the members of the Grand Jury were instructed of their duties and responsibilities that are expected to be carried out during the term of duty. The Grand Jury selected consisted of twenty-one members.

On September 9-11, 2019 the Grand Jury heard presentments given by the District Attorney, City of Hinesville Police, Liberty County Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol, and Fort Stewart Criminal Investigators. The Grand Jury returned True Bills as well as No Bills on a number of indictments.

On October 2, 2019 a committee of 10 Grand Jurors met to inspect the Liberty County Jail. The results is included on an attached document.

On December 5, 2019 the Grand Jury reconvened to continue their assigned duties hearing more indictments. During the September 2019 term the Grand Jury heard and returned a total of 482 presentments.

We the Grand Jury suggests that additional members be selected for stand-by. On December 5, 2019 we had a situation where we started late, because we didn't have enough jury members present. The reason was that 5 members was missing due to emergencies, surgery and one of the member was removed by the Judge Cheney.

Sincerely,


Belinda Marie Crawford

FILED - OFFICE OF CLERK
LIBERTY SUPERIOR, STATE
JUV. & MAGISTRATE COURT
20 JAN - 8 PM 12: 44

December 9, 2019

September 2019 Grand Jury Panel
Liberty County Georgia

Rose G. Wood

Foreperson

Belinda Marie Crawford

Clerk

Marqui McKhail Anderson

Destiny Chase Crosby

Shehara Dansalle Flowers

Diane M. Koceja

Brandon Marqui Maxwell

Aliyah Shakerra Robertson

Felicia J. Sanders

Jill D. Simmons

Jennifer E. Wasdin

Kenneth P. Odum

Assistant Foreperson

Julie P. Harmon

Assistant Clerk

Vickie J. Burchette

Joan S. Edge

Jaki Arnell Jones

Duane George Malek

Clarine Pierre

Jonathan T E Robertson

Sandra Brown Sibert

Daniel Ernesto Soto

*Marqui McKhail Anderson was removed on October 2, 2019 by Judge Cheney due to lack of attendance.

Sincerely,


Belinda Marie Crawford

To: The Clerk of Superior Court

From: Belinda Marie Crawford

December 9, 2019

Subject: Grand Jury

The Grand Jury met on September 9-11, 2019 and December 5, 2019 below are the number of True Bills and No Bills during our term.

September 9 -11, 2019 = 353 True Bills and 7 No Bills

December 5, 2019 = 122 True Bills and 0 No Bills

During our session we reviewed the financial statement from the Clerk of Courts office. The Grand Jury selected a team of 10 to conduct an inspection of the Liberty County Jail on October 2, 2019.

We made the recommendation to investigate the Gateway Behavioral Health Services for lack of established protocols of its employees.

If there are any question or concerns please contact me at (804) 405-8360 or you can email me at vbaby000@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,


Belinda Marie Crawford

Grand Jury Presentments September Term 2019

Inspection Location: Liberty County Jail
Inspection Date: October 2, 2019 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The group met with Major Edwards, the jail administrator. Major Edwards began with a history of the facility and the layout along with protocol. At the time of the visit, there were 275 inmates (48 US Marshall inmates) from Liberty and Long Counties along with the local city police and military. The jail also assists in the transportation of federal inmates. The facility is staffed with eight officers per shift and it was noted that they are currently short five employees.

It was noted that the jail is not meant for long term housing but is a pre-trial facility. The inmates are provided three meals per day and have access to medical care. The inmates are also provided with various activities such as cards and television as a way to keep them occupied to curb discipline problems. Currently the jail has experienced a 25% increase in the number of inmates since January. They are looking at another expansion area. The facility is equipped with suicide watch cells.

It was noted that the facility also assists in the transportation of inmates to and from court appointments, the transportation of citizens to facilities for mental evaluation as well as retrieving individuals with outstanding warrants that are picked up by other law enforcement to deliver them back to Liberty County.

The first area that was inspected was the booking area. The inmates are received in from local law enforcement, processed, given medical attention as needed, take mug shots and are finger printed. This area is staffed by two officers twenty-four hours a day working twelve hours shifts. The group was able to observe the space and made mention that the area was very tight and also noted the lack of dedicated spaces for storage of files and facilities for the officers as currently the restroom, breakroom and file room are combined into one cell.

After booking, the inmates are strip searched, showered, de-liced, alcohol tested and provided with clothing in jumpsuits specific to the inmate determined by agency, level of crime and where they work in the facility (such as trustees - inmate workers). Inmates have leg restraints when travelling unless they are pregnant. Pregnant females are allowed, per a judge's order, to leave the facility to deliver and then return after six weeks. The group toured the main control room, saw the special observation cells along with the phone and visitation areas.

The next stop was the kitchen area. It was noted that the current health code rating was 96. The food carts are manned by the trustees. They are screened and then housed separately from the other inmates. Major Edwards noted that demolition of the current kitchen would begin in 30-45 days and during the renovation, the inmates would be provided bag lunches for two days. There is also a commissary for the inmates with a kiosk system for funds and that it is also used for communications which are monitored.

During our inspection of the kitchen area, it was noted that Door "HI" to Tower 1 did not completely close after moving of inmates. This was immediately corrected by Major Edwards. Recommendation to check the function of this particular door to ensure that it closes properly.

The next area was laundry and medical. All mental health inmates are housed in this area to ensure that they have proper treatment and access to the clinic. The laundry area was worked by the trustees. This area was deemed adequately staffed and provided the necessary equipment to keep the laundered items clean and sanitary.

The next area the group visited was central control which houses tasers, inventory, radios, flashlights and other items needed throughout the facility. They also used this area for briefings.

The group then travelled to Tower 2. The area was separated into pods and houses four inmates per cell. There are also four cells for solitary confinement. One inmate in solitary was making loud noises that could be heard through the walls and glass. It was noted that the female inmates were all housed in one single pod. There was access to restroom, sink and shower facilities within each pod. There was one person in the tower to watch up to 96 inmates. The group was surprised by that fact and believed it would be beneficial for there to be additional officers in the event of an emergency.

The group also visited the transportation area. It was noted that during the month of September the officers travelled approximately 8,000 miles and moved about 200 individuals. The area seemed rather small for the number of officers on the transportation team and the group believed that the team could benefit from additional staff to cover the demand and allow the officers for time off.

The final area visited was the administration area. The offices there seemed adequate for the number of employees and duties performed.

The overall assessment of the facility was that they could benefit from additional officers. Also, the facility needs more space to handle the needs of both the increasing inmate population as well as provide the officers with a reasonable amount of space to perform their duties. The facility is also in need of funds for ongoing maintenance some of which would be costly but necessary to keep up the standards for the facility. These items include, but are not limited to, HVAC, kitchen updates, roofing, and overall upkeep. These are ongoing needs that will need to be addressed.

The group thanked Major Edwards for his service and his thoroughness during our visit.

Grand Jury Inspection Team:

Daniel Soto (Committee Foreman)
Clairine Pierre
Felecia Sanders
Shehara Flowers
Destiny Crosby

Aliyah Robertson
Julie Harmon
Sandra Sibert
Rose Wood (Grand Jury Foreperson)
Jennifer Wasdin (Committee Clerk)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rose Wood, Foreperson