

Patty Baker, Clerk of Superior Court Cherokee Cty, GA

**CHEROKEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT

To: Honorable Ellen McElyea
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia

Honorable David L. Cannon, Jr.
Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia

Honorable M. Anthony Baker
Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia

We, the members of the Grand Jury, chosen and sworn to serve the May 2021 Term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and recommendations.

We, the May 2021 Term Grand Jury, heard 181 Bills of Indictment, returned 181 True Bills and 0 No Bill.

Presentment 1

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, commend Superior Court Bailiffs Alan Day, Sandra Foster, Faye McCurry, and Linda Wolfe for their diligent assistance in arranging materials for the Grand Jury proceedings, managing the schedule for cases to be presented, coordinating Grand Jury payroll and ensuring that all of the Grand Jury proceedings ran smoothly.

Presentment 2

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, commend District Attorney Shannon Wallace, each of her Assistant District Attorneys and staff members, and each law enforcement officer and investigator associated with the cases brought before this Grand Jury for their professionalism and hard work in protecting the citizens of Cherokee County.

Presentment 3

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, express our thanks to the Honorable Judge David Cannon, Jr. for his professionalism and informative empanelment of this Grand Jury.

Presentment 4

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, express our sincere gratitude to the District Attorney and her staff, the Clerk of Courts and her staff, the Bailiffs, the Judges, the law enforcement and all of those involved in organizing, coordinating, and managing Grand Jury during this global pandemic.

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, were socially distanced in the jury assembly room for all but one month of our service, and were each required to wear masks throughout our service with the exception of the month of July. It was abundantly clear to the Grand Jury that our health and safety was a top priority at all times during this term to all individuals involved with ensuring the statutory duties of the Grand Jury were fulfilled.

Presentment 5

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, express our appreciation to Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority General Manager, Tom Heard, for his informative presentation about the Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority. We, the Grand Jury, were provided notice of vacancies for Post 1, Post 2, and the City Representative. The Clerk of Court publicized these vacancies in compliance with Georgia law and there was one applicant for each post. The Grand Jury reviewed the applications and heard from Tom Heard on July 12, 2021.

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, appointed Eric Wilmarth to Post 1, Lisa Woodruff to Post 2, and Becky Dabbs as the City Representative effective July 1, 2021.

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, make the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, recommend the Clerk of Court request all jurors provide photographic identification prior to serving as a juror in Cherokee County.

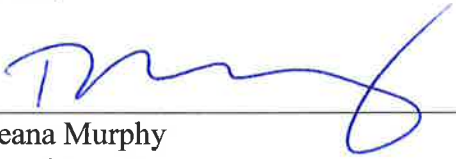
Recommendation 2:

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, recommend that all jurors be provided a lanyard with a juror number on it as opposed to a name tag to better assist the Grand Jury Secretary in identifying Grand Jurors who are excused on individual cases.

Recommendation 3:

We, the May 2021 Grand Jury, recommend the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners increase the funding for the Victim Advocate Program to better assist victims of crimes in Cherokee County.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of August 2021.



Deana Murphy
Grand Jury Foreperson

CHEROKEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER

It is ordered that the within and foregoing Grand Jury Presentment having been read and considered, the same be filed.

It is further ordered that a copy of the Grand Jury Presentment, along with a copy of this Order, be sent to the Cherokee Tribune for publication and the usual fees paid thereon.

This the 9 day of Aug, 2021.



Judge, Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit