

## CHEROKEE COUNTY

### STATE OF GEORGIA

### GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

**TO: The Honorable N. Jackson Harris  
Chief Judge, Superior Court  
Cherokee County, Georgia**

**The Honorable Ellen McElyea  
Judge, Superior Court  
Cherokee County, Georgia**

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

We, the members of this Grand Jury, chosen and sworn to serve the January 2018 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and recommendations.

We, the January 2018 Grand Jury, heard 215 bills of indictment, returned 215 true bills and 0 no bill.

#### PRESENTMENT 1

We, the January 2018 Grand Jury, commend Superior Court Bailiff Jane Johnson, Bailiff Johnny Champion, Bailiff Fay McCurry and Bailiff Tyron Gates 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 proceedings ran smoothly.

#### PRESENTMENT 2

We, the January 2018 Grand Jury, commend District Attorney Shannon Wallace, each of her Assistant District Attorneys and staff members, 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 January 2018 Grand Jury, express our appreciation to Cherokee County Sheriff Frank Reynolds, Major Bill Smith, Capt. Charles McMahan, Capt. Danny Higgins, and Lt. Irene Campbell for hosting an informative tour of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center. We toured the intake, living, kitchen, and surveillance areas of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center. We did not inspect the medical area due to the high number of influenza cases. Overall we found the areas visited to be clean, well-lit and effectively managed and orderly with the exception of the items noted below:

1. Vent covers at the intake entrance and along the central corridor (the mile) have a discoloration that appears to be mold;
2. Chipping paint was observed at the intake entrance, and along the central corridor;
3. In the male open bay pod, the cinder blocks above the microwave area appeared dirty or had a growth on it;
4. Several access panels along the central corridor appeared to be showing mild rust;
5. The area near the housing area had a bad smell that seemed to be a dirty body smell.

We would like to commend the members of the detention center staff that we interacted with. They were informative, and professional in their dealings with the members of the Grand Jury as well as being professional and respectful when dealing with the inmates. We, the members of the Grand Jury, were impressed with the inmate created murals along the central corridor.

#### Recommendations:

1. While the current facility is aging, we recommend addressing the areas of concern noted above to prolong the life of the facility and to avoid the issue increasing in severity;
2. Continue the inmate art project as we believe this not only provides a positive outlet for the inmates but also enhances the appearance of the facility;
3. As expansion of the detention center occurs, we recommend that efforts be made regarding the design to allow greater segregation of the population to resolve issues the staff mentioned. For example, being able to separate different gangs, informants, separate members of the same gang as needed and provide increased services for the mentally ill being detained.

### PRESENTMENT 4

We, the January 2018 Grand Jury, sincerely express thanks to Clerk of Court, Patty Baker, and Lisa Cline for their thorough and knowledgeable overview of the Board of Tax Equalization and for explaining the appointment process to the Grand Jury.

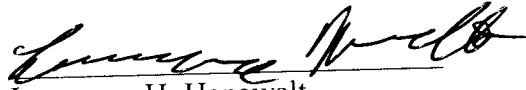
PRESENTMENT 5

District Attorney, Shannon Wallace, presented the January 2018 Grand Jury, e-mails and requests from William Dewrell for this grand jury to open an investigation into the removal of said William Dewrell by the September 2017 Grand Jury. We, the January 2018 Grand Jury, did not vote by 8 or more to conduct an investigation into this matter, but instead declined to investigate this matter as a thorough investigation was performed by September 2017 Grand Jury.

PRESENTMENT 6

We, the January 2018 Grand Jury, express thanks to the Honorable Judge David L. Cannon, Jr. for his professional and informative empanelment and orientation of this Grand Jury.

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of April, 2018.

  
Lawrence H. Hanawalt  
Grand Jury Foreperson

CHEROKEE COUNTY

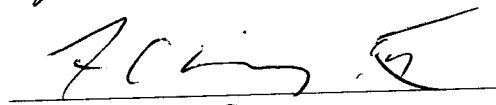
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER

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

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

This the 10 day of April, 2018.

  
Judge, Superior Court  
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit