

**CHEROKEE COUNTY**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS**

**TO:**

**The Honorable Frank C. Mills, III  
Chief Judge, Superior Court  
Cherokee County, Georgia**

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

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

We, the members of this Grand Jury, chosen and sworn to serve the January 2009 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and recommendations.

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, heard **200** bills of indictment, returned **200** true bills and **0** no bills.

**PRESENTMENT 1**

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, would like to commend Superior Court Chief Bailiff Jane Johnson and Bailiff Johnny Champion for their assistance in arranging the material for the Grand Jury, managing the schedule of cases to be presented, coordinating the Grand Jury payroll, and helping the Grand Jury to proceed in an orderly fashion. We thank them both for their friendliness, helpfulness and support of this Grand Jury.

**PRESENTMENT 2**

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, gratefully appreciate District Attorney Garry Moss and his Assistant District Attorneys who submitted indictments to the Grand Jury, along with the staff members, and all of the law enforcement personnel who testified and offered evidence in this regard. We especially thank District Attorney Moss for providing appropriate instructions and his availability to the Grand Jury for further insight into the ongoing Grand Jury processes.

Filed in Office, Cherokee County, Georgia  
This 16 day of April, 2009  
At 10:05 m.  
Amanda Warriner  
PATY BAKER, Clerk Sr. Deputy Clerk  
Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

### PRESENTMENT 3

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, wish to thank Cherokee County Tax Commissioner David Fields for his review of recent tax collection history in the county. While reporting that 92% of the county's property taxes had been collected for this year (1% lower than this time last year), Tax Commissioner Fields' was also able to communicate how the lag in the State government's funding of the Homeowner's Tax Relief Grant negatively impacted additional collections by up to 3%. Additionally, Tax Commissioner Fields' information on existing age/disability exemptions and Homestead exemptions was appreciated.

Additionally, the Grand Jury would like to commend the county for its recent move of the Cherokee County Tax Commissioner's office in Woodstock. The move from the South Annex on Highway 5 to Highway 92/West of Interstate 575 will enable staff to better serve the county's residents by improved accessibility and enhanced parking.

### PRESENTMENT 4

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, commend Sheriff Roger Garrison for his continued oversight and leadership relative to the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. The continued support of interagency law enforcement such as the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) and the pending agreement with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Forsyth County government relative to a joint gang task force is considered necessary and appropriate. Additionally, the creation of the VIPER squad to impact high-crime incident areas is viewed as a positive intervention against crime.

Finally, the Grand Jury would like to thank Sheriff Roger Garrison, Major Karen Johnson and the staff of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office for hosting an informative tour of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center (ADC). The ADC facility was found to well-designed and observed operational plans were designed to maintain high levels of security, safety and accountability. Additionally, the ADC facility was found to be clean and well-maintained. Of note, the current number of inmates being housed at the ADC facility was above capacity.

### PRESENTMENT 5

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, commend the Sheriff's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for providing a focal point of emergency preparedness training for local law and safety agencies, as well as maintaining a state-of-the-art facility for coordinating and disbursing necessary resources during emergencies. The Grand Jury wishes to thank Director Robby Westbrook and Renay Cornelison for providing an informative tour of that facility.

PRESENTMENT 6

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, commend the Cherokee County 911 Center for providing critical communication support for the county law and safety agencies. The intake and dispatch protocols employed at the 911 Center appear appropriately gauged for the needs of the county. The grand jury wishes to thank Director Chris Collett and his staff for providing insight into the operations of this center during a tour.

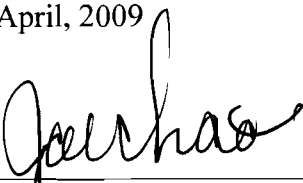
PRESENTMENT 7

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, through discussion with District Attorney Garry Moss relative to potential Federal Stimulus Package Funds to be made available to the Cherokee County government during 2009 and improvements in local tax revenues collected by the Cherokee County government, recommend consideration be given to further personnel hires and equipment acquisitions specifically aimed at assisting in improved crime prevention, as well as law enforcement, investigations and legal proceedings conducted by county law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office. We further recommend that the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit submit a joint application to create a central transcript agency for all law enforcement agencies to submit witnesses' statements for transcripts for court purposes.

PRESENTMENT 8

We, the January 2009 Grand Jury, further commend Sheriff Roger Garrison, Chief Deputy Vic West and Major Ed Lacey for their visit to the Grand Jury regarding the current policies and review processes of the Sheriff's Office related to automobile pursuits of suspected offenders. It should be noted that the City of Canton Police Department and the City of Holly Springs Departments were extended the same invitation, but chose to not appear before the Grand Jury, leaving Grand Jurors with questions about their policies in the same regard

Respectfully submitted, the is 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009

  
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JOSEPH W. CHAO  
GRAND JURY FOREMAN.

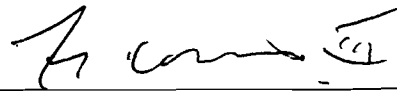
CHEROKEE COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER

The within and foregoing Grand Jury Presentments having read and considered, let the same be filed.

Let a copy of these Presentments, along with a copy of this Order; be sent to the Cherokee Tribune and Radio Station WLJA for publication and the usual fees paid thereon.

This the 16 day of April, 2009.



FRANK C. MILLS, III  
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE  
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit