

CHEROKEE COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

TO:

The Honorable Frank C. Hills, 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 September 2009 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and recommendations.

PRESENTMENT 1

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, sincerely appreciate District Attorney Garry Moss and his Assistant District Attorneys who submitted indictments to the Grand Jury, along with his staff and all of the law enforcement personnel and other witnesses who testified and presented evidence. They were professional, efficient, courteous and very helpful in providing the Grand Jury with appropriate instructions, answering questions and ensuring we understood the details of each case presented. This aided the Grand Jury to effectively perform our duties.

PRESENTMENT 2

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, would like to commend Superior Court Chief Bailiff Jane Johnson and Bailiff Johnny Champion for their assistance in managing the schedule of cases to be presented, in providing the materials needed to execute our duties, and in helping the Grand Jury to proceed in an orderly and efficient fashion. We thank them for their professionalism, helpfulness, and courteous support.

Filed in Office, Cherokee County, Georgia
This 17 day of December, 2009
At 9:32 A m.
Jacqui West
PATTY BAKER, Clerk Deputy Clerk
Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

PRESENTMENT 3

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, would like to thank Patty Baker, Clerk of Superior Court, and Kimberly D. Millsap, Secretary to the Board of Tax Equalization, for their support and efficiency in coordinating information required for the Grand Jury to perform their duty in appointing applicants to the three expired terms on the Board of Tax Equalization. We would also like to thank Patty Baker for her efficiency in coordinating prompt payment to the Grand Jury members for our services to the Superior Court of Cherokee County.

PRESENTMENT 4

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, had the privilege of studying the requirements for appointment to the Board of Tax Equalization and reviewing applications from qualified candidates for the three open positions on the Board (one Regular and two Additional Alternate Members). After careful consideration, we made appointments to the Board of Tax Equalization as referenced in the attached documents.

PRESENTMENT 5

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, would like to commend Cherokee County Sheriff Roger Garrison for his leadership of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. We, the Grand Jury, would like to thank Major Karen Johnson, Captain Hill and Sergeant Harris for hosting an informative tour of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center (ADC). The ADC staff were found to be professional. They maintained high levels of security, with safety and accountability being of paramount concern. The ADC facility was found to be clean, well-maintained and with operational plans in place to ensure both inmate and public safety.

Two items of note:

- The ADC facility appears to be housing a number of persons who require mental health support beyond the capabilities of that facility and its staff. The Grand Jury is concerned the ADC does not have access to sufficient mental health facilities to house these persons, leaving them in an unsuitable environment at the ADC.
- The current number of inmates being housed at the ADC facility is above the capacity for which it was designed. Expansion of the facility and staff must be addressed in the near future to avoid potential problems that come from an over-crowded facility.

PRESENTMENT 6

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, would like to thank Kim Williams, Commander of the Cherokee County Multi-Agency Narcotics Agency (C-MANS), for her overview of the C-MANS organization and its interaction with other law enforcement agencies within the state of Georgia, both state and federal. This information aided the Grand Jury in understanding cases involving narcotics so as to make a more informed decision on indictments.

PRESENTMENT 7

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, would like to recommend all future Grand Jury's be provided an overview of the drug situation in Cherokee County by the Cherokee County Multi-Agency Narcotics Agency (C-MANS) prior to the start of each new Grand Jury session. This instructional overview should include, but not be limited to:

- Overview of the agencies fighting drug related crimes in Cherokee County,
- Explanation of: Schedule I-IV drugs, crimes related to use/abuse of each Schedule level, and sentences imposed due to possession/use of each Schedule level,
- Overview of the training officers receive to help them identify persons on drugs and the laws available to those officers in making drugs arrests,
- Review different types of drugs found in Cherokee County, and the various terminologies such as: street names for drugs, drug paraphernalia, and explanation of drug quantities (i.e., grams, kilos, 6-8 oz of marijuana = 1/2 gallon plastic bag, etc.) as well as what is being done to combat drug use. This would better help the Grand Jury understand cases being presented to them and thus reduce time it takes to review drug cases brought before the Grand Jury.

PRESENTMENT 8

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, would like to thank Chris Collett, Director of the Cherokee County 911 Center, and his staff for allowing us to tour Cherokee County's Communication Support Center. The Center was found to be efficiently operated and staffed.

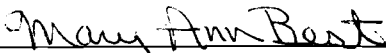
PRESENTMENT 9

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, would like to thank Robby Westbrook, Director of the Emergency Management Center, for his informative tour of this facility. We commend the Director and the Sheriff's Office for providing this facility in support of the residents of Cherokee County and especially for its recent work in supporting the residents and businesses of Cherokee County during the September 2009 flood disaster.

PRESENTMENT 10

We, the September 2009 Grand Jury, recommend maintaining the current levels of compensation for the grand jurors, petit jurors, coroner's inquest jurors and bailiffs for 2010.

Respectfully submitted, the 17th day of December, 2009.



MARY ANN BEST
FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

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 the 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 17 day of December, 2009.



ELLEN MCELYEA
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit