

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 May 2017 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and recommendations:

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, heard 190 bills of indictment, returned 190 true bills and 0 no bills.

PRESENTMENT 1

We, the May 2017 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 May 2017 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 May 2017 Grand Jury, express thanks to the Honorable Judge Ellen McElyea for her professional and informative empanelment and orientation of this Grand Jury.

PRESENTMENT 4

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, express our appreciation to Cherokee County Sheriff Frank Reynolds, Major Bill Smith, Capt. Charles McMahan, and Major Dana Martin for hosting an informative tour of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center. We toured the male and female living areas of the detention center. These areas were found to be clean, well-lit, effectively managed and orderly but overcrowded.

After inspecting the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center, we, the May 2017 Grand Jury, recommend that additional employees be hired to staff the CCADC, especially with regards to monitoring the control room. Likewise, it is clear from inspecting the CCADC that a jail expansion is necessary and this project should be imminent.

PRESENTMENT 5

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, express our appreciation to Renee Cornelison, Alex Nolan and the staff of the Cherokee Office of Homeland Security-Emergency Management (OHS-EM), and the shift supervisors and staff of the 911 Center for hosting an informative tour. The OHS-EM and 911 Centers were both highly efficient and effectively run.

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, were informed about CodeRED, the web-based critical communication solution used in Cherokee County that enables local public safety personnel to notify residents and businesses by telephone, text message, email, and social media of time-sensitive information, emergencies or urgent notifications. This system can reach hundreds of thousands of individuals in minutes to ensure information such as evacuation notices, inclement weather advisories, missing persons, and more are quickly shared. Citizens can register free of charge by simply signing up on the enrollment website and selecting the preferred means of communication. We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, would like to encourage citizens to enroll in CodeRED by visiting <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BF64AA522EE3>. If any citizen has any additional questions about CodeRED, he or she should contact Andrea DeCoursey at (678)493-4137.

PRESENTMENT 6

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, express thanks to Mr. Thomas Heard and Chairman Mike Byrd of the Cherokee County Water and Sewage Authority for taking time out of their busy schedules to educate the Grand Jury about the needs pertinent to the aforementioned Board in order to assist the Grand Jury in making the appropriate appointments to this Board.

PRESENTMENT 7

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, inspected and examined the offices and operations of the Clerk of Court of Cherokee County. We express our thanks to Patty Baker, Clerk of Courts of Cherokee County, for hosting an informative tour of the Superior, State and Magistrate Court Clerk's Offices and commend her staff for being extremely knowledgeable and professional and ahead

of the curve with respect to technology. Specifically, the Grand Jury was impressed with the online database in the Clerk's office as well as the ability of the clerk to process payments via credit/debit cards.

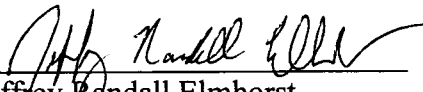
PRESENTMENT 8

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, inspected and examined the offices and operations of the Probate Court of Cherokee County. We express our thanks to the Honorable Keith Wood, Probate Judge of Cherokee County, for hosting an informative tour of the Probate Court of Cherokee County. The Probate Court is efficiently and effectively operated but since many people do not currently carry cash, we would highly recommend the Probate Court to obtain the ability to process payments via credit/debit card.

PRESENTMENT 9

We, the May 2017 Grand Jury, received and reviewed the 2016 annual report from the Child Fatality Review Committee. We would like to thank Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Ashley Snow for her informative presentation about the Child Fatality Review Committee and the Child Abuse Protocol Committee. Likewise, we would like to thank Deputy Chief Ashley Snow and the other members of these committees for their dedication and hard work in preventing child abuse and child fatalities.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of August, 2017.



Jeffrey Randall Elmhorst
Grand Jury Foreperson

CHEROKEE COUNTY

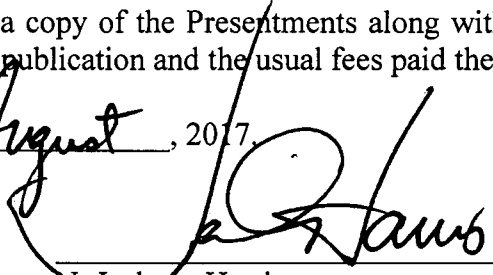
STATE OF GEORGIA

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 14 day of August, 2017.



N. Jackson Harris
Judge, Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit