

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

Filed in Office, Cherokee County, Georgia
 This 13th day of April, 2006
 10:45A. m.
 Patty Baker / JMB
 Deputy Clerk
 Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

We, the members of this Grand Jury, chosen and sworn to serve the January 2006 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and several recommendations.

We, the January 2006 Grand Jury, heard 285 indictments and returned 285 true bills.

PRESENTMENT 1

We, the January 2006 Grand Jury, would like to commend the staff of the District Attorney's Office and law enforcement officers for their professional and thorough preparation of cases. We further commend the District Attorney's staff for their timeliness in presenting cases for indictment.

PRESENTMENT 2

We, the January 2006 Grand Jury, recommend as recommended by the May 2005 Grand Jury that the May 2006 Grand Jury follow up on staffing issues within the fire department with the appropriate county officials to ensure that they are implemented.

PRESENTMENT 3

We, the January 2006 Grand Jury, would like to endorse the September 2005 Grand Jury's Presentment No. 3: We, the January 2006 Grand Jury, learned that methamphetamine is the most addictive drug that has ever been available, even more addictive than heroin or cocaine, and it is easily made from ingredients commonly found in local stores. Most people are not aware of the seriousness of the meth problem until they serve on a jury or have a family member or friend who becomes addicted. With 95% of people who use meth becoming addicted, and the rate of overcoming addiction at only 5-6%, the likelihood of a greater epidemic cannot be underestimated.

The Grand Jury recommends the following, in conjunction with ongoing community and school system efforts, to address the meth problem in Cherokee County:

- (1) A stronger focus on meth abuse education in middle and high schools
- (2) An annual drug abuse forum presented by community leaders at local high schools
- (3) Continued efforts by Drug Free Cherokee to educate the public

Although current statistics demonstrate that methamphetamine abuse is mainly in the adult population at this time, the Grand Jury members are concerned that meth abuse will eventually trickle down from

the adult population to teenagers and children. Children who live in homes with meth users often suffer serious neglect, and often, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as exposure to toxic chemicals and second hand smoke associated with meth abuse. Although meth abuse has not become a serious problem with the students in Cherokee County yet, the Grand Jury would encourage a stronger focus on meth abuse education with its students and staff, as part of current drug education training. Taking a pro-active and preventative approach may help prevent a major epidemic with our youth.

Recognizing that meth abuse is a community problem, the Grand Jury appreciates the school system's willingness to coordinate a drug education forum with community leaders, including representatives from the Sheriff's office, juvenile and adult court system, and members of local drug counseling and rehabilitation programs. The forum would have the greatest impact if held during the school day, while students and staff are present, with parents invited.

The Grand Jury supports the efforts of Drug Free Cherokee and encourages utilizing existing community groups to educate the public about the growing meth problem, including the Chamber of Commerce, Churches, YMCA, Rotary Clubs, Optimist Clubs, Lions Clubs, Boys & Girls Club, Scout groups, and other groups that work toward improving our community.

PRESENTMENT NO. 4

We, the January 2006 Grand Jury recommend the Cherokee County School System change bus stop rules. We feel there is a problem in that current Cherokee County rules state that a bus stop can be up to 1.0 miles (no more) from a child's home. We feel Cherokee County rules should state that a bus stop cannot be more than 1,000 feet from a child's home. Sex offenders cannot come within 1,000 feet of a bus stop. Current rule gives sex offenders up to 4,280 feet to stalk children.

PRESENTMENT NO. 5

We, the Grand Jury, commend Commander Terry Pelfrey of the Cherokee County MultiAgency Narcotics Squad for his informative presentation of problems of drug abuse and the efforts of CMANS in combating these problems in Cherokee County. We recommend that the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners continue to fund the CMANS Unit so that it might continue to combat the drug problem in Cherokee County.

PRESENTMENT NO. 6

We, the Grand Jury, recommend that the county commissioners look into the county's pay structure as a whole. If there are pay areas that need to be addressed to maintain the high quality employees that the citizens expect and deserve than those areas, whatever they are, be addressed.

PRESENTMENT NO. 7

We, the January, 2006, Grand Jury recommend that the Cherokee County Board of Commissioner place automatic external defibrillator in all county buildings and training facilities

PRESENTMENT NO. 8

We, the January, 2006, Grand Jury recommend that the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners consider some of the funding to upgrade the 911 system in Cherokee County to enable further interdepartmental communications.

PRESENTMENT NO. 9

We, the January 2006 Grand Jury, would like to thank Mark Kissel, Randy Martin, and Carol Mudd from the Cherokee County School System for speaking to this Grand Jury about the school systems ongoing efforts to provide a safe place for our children.

PRESENTMENT NO. 10

We, the Grand Jury would like to thank Karen Johnson and Joe McDonald for a tour of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center.

We observed the facility to be well maintained and the sanitary conditions in all areas to be above accepted standards. We commend Sheriff Roger Garrison and his staff for operating an efficient and secure facility in a highly professional manner.

We also would like to thank Renee Cornelison for the tour of the EMS and Community Disaster Center and 911 Center.

PRESENTMENT NO. 11


We, the members of the Grand Jury recommend an increase in the bailiff's pay to \$70. per day as recommended by the September 2003, January 2005, and May 2005 grand juries.

PRESENTMENT NO. 12

We, the members of the Grand Jury, would like to thank the county commissioners for the implementation of the recommendation of the May and September 2004 Grand Juries to increase the pay for Grand Jury service to \$50 per day.

PRESENTMENT NO. 13

We, the Grand Jury, would like to commend Jane Johnson for her tireless efforts to arrange the materials for the Grand Jury, manage the schedule of cases to be presented, coordinate the Grand Jury payroll, and assure that the Grand Jury runs as smoothly as possible. We thank Jane for her friendliness, helpfulness, and support of this Grand Jury.



DWIGHT EDWARD WILLIAMS
FOREMAN

Filed in Office, Cherokee County, Georgia
This 13th day of April, 2006
At 10:45A m.
Patty Baker MB
PATTY BAKER, Clerk / Deputy Clerk
Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

CHEROKEE COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

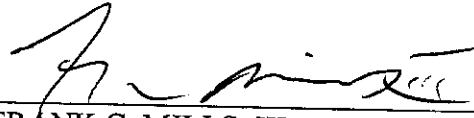
ORDER

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 the Order, be sent to the Cherokee Tribune and Radio Station WCHK for publication and the usual fees paid thereon.

It is further ordered that the Clerk of Superior, Cherokee County, Georgia mail a copy of these presentments to each legislator who represents Cherokee County, to each Cherokee County Commissioner, to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, the Cherokee Ledger News and to radio station WLJA.

This the 13 day of April, 2006.


FRANK C. MILLS, III
Judge, Superior
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit