

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 May 2007 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and several recommendations.

We, the May 2007 Grand Jury, heard 264 bill of indictments, returned 262 true bills and 2 no bills.

PRESENTMENT 1

We, the May 2007 Grand Jury, would like to commend Superior Court Bailiff Jane Johnson for her 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 run as smoothly as possible. We thank Jane for her friendliness and support of this Grand Jury.

PRESENTMENT 2

The May 2007 Grand Jury gratefully appreciates District Attorney Garry Moss and the other Assistant District Attorneys, their staff members and all of the law enforcement personnel who submitted indictments to the Grand Jury.

Filed in Office, Cherokee County, Georgia
This 2nd day of August, 20 07
At 9:50 A. m.
Pattie Baker
PATTY BAKER, Clerk Deputy Clerk
Superior, State, Juvenile & Magistrate Courts

Received 8-28-07 841

PRESENTMENT 3

The May 2007 Grand Jury strongly recommends that lawmakers introduce legislation that requires any illegal or un-documented alien charged with a crime against a person under the age of 16 be held in jail without a bond.

PRESENTMENT 4

The May 2007 Grand Jury wishes to thank Sheriff Roger Garrison and County Manager Jerry Cooper for their efforts to work together to address the hiring and current staffing of the Sheriff's office; also working towards making salaries and benefits comparable with surrounding jurisdictions. We also thank these two for providing in detail the departmental breakdowns including all county employee turnover percentages.

PRESENTMENT 5

The May 2007 Grand Jury would like to thank Captain Tom Kattaron for providing us with the Deputy Sheriff Personnel Breakdown and new officer compensation and hiring/training amounts. We would like to make the recommendation that those being hired with Masters Degrees receive a higher compensation package. Additionally, we would like to recommend that a retirement package be put into place for all officers and supporting personnel.

PRESENTMENT 6

The May 2007 Grand Jury would like to thank Sheriff Roger Garrison, Capt. K.P. Johnson and J.F. Perkins for their time and the detailed tour of the Cherokee County Detention Center. We would like to commend Sheriff Garrison and the staff for the upkeep and the state of art condition of our adult detention facility. We are thankful for the explanation of SB287G and the factors and reasons why Sheriff Garrison has not implemented this Bill. As a footnote, the May 2007 Grand Jury would like to express their approval of the position taken by Sheriff Garrison. We also thank those in the kitchen for preparing lunch for us. In conclusion, we on the Grand Jury learned that we have a very worthy facility in Cherokee County.

PRESENTMENT 7

The May 2007 Grand Jury would like to commend The Office of Homeland Security and J. Robby Westbrook for the tour of our OHS-EM center. We also commend our 911 center and recommend that a hiring campaign be put into place for the 911 center where there is cross training and support for Renay Cornelison.

The Grand Jury would also like to recommend that the OHS-EM consider a campaign to encourage citizens to sign up for free email notifications concerning important county announcements released by the office. We also encourage that the EM Center consider a rapid notification system, via free cell phone (no-reply) text messaging, with regard to major emergency notifications. This might prove effective when informing citizens of severe weather situations or acts of terrorism. Few people own weather radios; however, cell phones are owned by a majority of our county's population. WSB 750 Radio's Traffic Alert text service could be a system to copy from.

PRESENTMENT 8

The May 2007 Grand Jury would like to thank Amy Economopoulos, Roteasha Franklin, Linda Bishop and all the others at the Anna Crawford Center. They provide an invaluable service to the children of Cherokee County and we commend them for the work they do.

PRESENTMENT 9

The May 2007 Grand Jury would like to thank Terry Pelfrey with the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) for spending time with us to understand the overwhelming problem we have in Cherokee County with drugs and drug related crimes.

PRESENTMENT 10

The May 2007 Grand Jury was responsible for appointing to the Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority Post 3, Post 4 and At Large positions. After careful consideration we would like to reappoint Mr. Winchester and Mr. Cornelison and would like to appoint Ms. Nancy Martin to the board. Ms Martin will bring many years of experience and expertise and will be a valuable member of our water authority. We strongly recommend that the current method of appointment for CCWSA members remain intact and unchanged.

PRESENTMENT 11

The May 2007 Grand Jury recognizes the overwhelming need for a mental health facility to relieve some of the burden in our county adult detention center.

PRESENTMENT 12

The county's current illegal immigration problem should be addressed. The May 2007 Grand Jury recommends that the county implement the following tools provided by our state legislature and Federal Department of Homeland Security :

- A.) The county should align itself within compliance of Georgia State Bill 529, to include the following:
 - 1.) Requiring that all county public agencies who take applications for public benefits use the SAVE system, to verify lawful status (and eligibility to receive services) of the applicant.
 - 2.) Requiring all private entities whom receive county money to verify their recipients through the SAVE system.
 - 3.) Requiring every employer seeking a business license and/or county contracts to be signed up and using the Basic Pilot Employee Verification System. This program is free to all employers and is very easy to use.
 - 4.) Encourage all abovementioned agencies and entities to become IMAGE certified by ICE.

These policies will go a long way as a disincentive to those that would attempt to ignore current state and federal immigration laws.

PRESENTMENT 13

The May 2007 Grand Jury would like to thank Cynthia Foster, Executive Director of Cherokee County Animal Shelter, for her and her staff's diligent work toward animal humanity and welfare, in conjunction with public safety. It was found that the county could take actions to assist the animal shelter in the following areas.

- 1.) Funds for the addition of double fencing along the perimeters of the current animal housing cages within the intake facility. This would increase the intake facility's housing cages from 22 to 44, at a minimal cost.

- 2.) Provide funding for the addition of a Veterinary Tech employee and an Adoption/Customer Administrative employee. An additional 3rd employee would further help the facility.
- 3.) Approve and assist in funding of onsite professional training of current employees in conjunction with the American Humane Association.
- 4.) An audit should be conducted to confirm that the current process of euthanizing animals is being performed in accordance with county rules and regulations – in a humane way.

PRESENTMENT 14

The May 2007 Grand Jury would like to thank John Cadle for bringing to the attention the situation of the South View Cemetery. After some discussion, the City of Canton has agreed to maintain the South View Cemetery and also to work with Mr. Cadle on creating a perpetuity for the South View Cemetery for the years to come. We thank Mayor of Canton Cecil Pruett, City Attorney William G. Hasty, Jr., District Attorney Garry Moss, Cherokee County Manager Jerry Cooper and Mr. John Cadle. We, as residents of Cherokee County look forward to uncovering the rich history of the South View Cemetery.

PRESENTMENT 15

In response to the May 2007 Grand Jury's investigation and research of county roads and public safety issues, we recommend the county focus its attention and dollars to the following sites:

- 1.) NB Hwy 140 at the intersection of Sardis Rd is in need of adequate guard railing along the shoulder of NB 140 approaching said intersection.
- 2.) EB Hwy 20 at the intersection of Union Hill Rd is in need of speed strips and a left lane turn light.
- 3.) NB Hwy 5 (in Holly Springs) @ Hickory Road. Left lane needs to be expanded. Time on turn signal needs to be lengthened.
- 4.) NB Hwy 5 @ Univeter Road. Left turn impedes straight thru traffic.
- 5.) NB Hwy 140 @ Hospital Road. A left turn lane is needed.
- 6.) Consideration into raising the speed limit within downtown Woodstock slightly, to provide a more uncongested flow through downtown.

- 7.) Consideration into expanding the parking spaces for the Cherokee County School System office campus. Access and egress is also difficult due to side streets and one way restrictions.
- 8.) Hwy 140 and Lower Burris intersection should have a traffic light.
- 9.) Conn's Creek Road from GA 372 to Yellow Creek Rd should be paved.
- 10.) All county owned and maintained bridges should be evaluated for safety.

 8-22-2007

ALLAN OWENS
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.

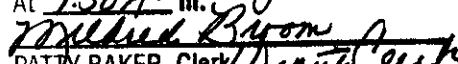
Let a copy of these Presentments, along with a copy of this Order, be sent to the Cherokee Tribune and Radio Station WCHK for publication and the usual fees paid thereon.

It is further ordered that the Clerk of Superior Court, Cherokee County, Georgia mail a copy of these presentments to each legislator who represents Cherokee County, and to each Cherokee County Commissioner.

This the 22 day of Aug, 2007.



Judge, Superior
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

Filed in Office, Cherokee County, Georgia
This 22nd day of August, 2007
At 9:50 A: m.

PATTY BAKER, Clerk Deputy Clerk
Superior, State, Juvenile & Magistrate Courts