

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 4th day of January, 2006
At 9:40 A m
Patty Baker MS
PATTY BAKER, Clerk Deputy Clerk
Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

We, the members of this Grand Jury, chosen and sworn to serve the September 2005 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and several recommendations.

We, the September 2005 Grand Jury, heard 227 indictments and returned 227 true bills.

PRESENTMENT 1

We, the September 2005 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 September 2005 Grand Jury, recommend as recommended by the May 2005 Grand Jury that the January 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 September 2005 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 Grand Jury thank Deputy Lana Henson for speaking with us about the efforts of the Sheriff's office to address the drug abuse problem as well as other law enforcement needs in the county. We commend her for her professionalism and expertise in dealing with the citizens of Cherokee County.

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 the CMANS in combating these problems in Cherokee County.

PRESENTMENT NO. 6

We, the Grand Jury would like to thank Juvenile Court Judge John Sumner for his real life insights into the Juvenile Court System, and the effects of meth on families. We also appreciate his community support and involvement in drug education.

PRESENTMENT NO. 7

We, the September 2005 Grand Jury would like to thank Judge Mills for his explanation of legal procedures and sharing community issues.

PRESENTMENT NO. 8

We, the September 2005 Grand Jury appointed the following members to the Cherokee County Tax Board: Donald Sams, J. E. White, Larry Haynes and Bill Matthews. We have determined them to be knowledgeable, enthusiastic and dedicated.

PRESENTMENT NO. 9

The September 2005 Grand Jury was charged with investigating the sanitary conditions of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center. A committee of the jury members visited the facility on October 11, 2005. We were escorted by Major Chris Collett and were given the opportunity to observe any area of the jail.

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 Robbie Westbrook for his tour of the EMS and Community Disaster Center and 911 Center.

PRESENTMENT NO. 10

We, the Grand Jury would like to thank the Cherokee School System Nurses, Gwynn Chambers and Rita Anderson for explaining the role and importance of nurses in schools. The Grand Jury appreciates the commitment of the school system in the nursing program.

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

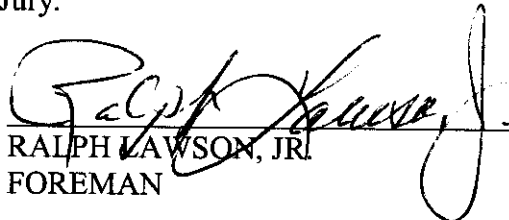
We, the members of the Grand Jury, recommend that the county commissioners immediately implement the recommendation of the May and September 2004 Grand Juries and increase the pay for Grand Jury service to \$50. per day.

PRESENTMENT NO. 13

We, the Grand Jury would like to thank John Hicks, director of the G. Cecil Pruett Community Center Family YMCA for his time and tour of facilities and programs at the center.

PRESENTMENT NO. 14

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.


RALPH LAWSON, JR.
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 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 4 day of Jan, 2006.


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

Search Result

Party Name	Party Type	Index	Year	Seq #	Rev #	Docket #
Description	Instrument Type	Description	Instrument Type	Filing Date	Filing Time	Microfilm Roll/Frame
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CRIMINAL MINUTES GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS (SEPT. 2005)	GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS	GJP		1/4/2006	9:40 AM	

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