

## 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  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA  
06 DEC 12 PM 3:56  
PATTY BAKER, CLERK

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

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, heard 238 indictments and returned 238 true bills.

PRESENTMENT 1

We would like to commend Jane Johnson for her assistance in arranging material for the Grand Jury, managing the schedule of cases to be presented, coordinating the Grand Jury payroll, and assuring that the Grand Jury will run smoothly and efficiently. We thank Jane for her friendliness and support of this Grand Jury.

PRESENTMENT 2

Thanks to the District Attorney, Garry Moss, the Assistant District Attorneys and all law enforcement personnel who submitted indictments to us.

PRESENTMENT 3

In follow-up to the May 2006 Grand Jury's Presentment 11, we spoke with Major Collett from the Sheriff's Department. We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, recommend that the County Commissioners and the Sheriff's Department take the necessary steps to fill existing vacancies in the Sheriff's office.

PRESENTMENT NO. 4

We would like to thank Jerry Cooper, Cherokee County Manager, for meeting with the Grand Jury. At the request of the Probate Court, we, the September 2006 Grand Jury, met with Jerry Cooper to discuss the health of buildings, safety and access in Cherokee County. Mr. Cooper has thoroughly studied the buildings and has contracted experienced agencies to examine and clean these buildings. It appears standards are being met and that good follow up is in place regarding mold in the buildings. Safety and access of the Historical Court Building is also currently being studied and improvements are forthcoming. We recommend the January 2007 Grand Jury follow up regarding handicapped signage, access and handrails in addition to new roofing in the Historical Court Building.

PRESENTMENT NO. 5

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, would like to commend the Probate Court for its continuous efforts to serve the public, including educational programs. As well as obtaining confirmation through Superior Court declaratory judgment that the Probate Courts proceedings are appropriate to providing for a procedure of the disposition of unclaimed or abandoned dead persons. (There is no State law providing for this.)

PRESENTMENT NO. 6

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, would like to recommend the January 2007 Grand Jury ensure that any plans to change the location of the Probate Court and its clerk's staff outside of the Justice Center include security equivalent to the Justice Center; parking access near the entrance for the elderly and handicapped; renovations to limit the necessary walking distance for the elderly and handicapped; and reconstruction to remove all health and safety hazards.

PRESENTMENT NO. 7

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury followed up with Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services Department regarding staffing issues. They indicated the department will soon meet their goal of more than one responder per emergency response vehicle. Presently two responders are assigned to each station, but in reality two people are not always on duty due to sick leave, vacation or holiday time on any given day. In January 2007, the department is set to hire approximately 15 new recruits and later in 2007 more recruits will be added allowing all stations two staff people at all times. We encourage this process to continue until the goal is met.

PRESENTMENT NO. 8

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, would like to recommend judicious controlled residential growth in Cherokee County. We request the County Commissioners to consider the impact on schools, traffic and infrastructure prior to granting new residential building permits.

PRESENTMENT NO. 9

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, would like to thank Patty Baker for meeting with the committee members to review the Clerk of Court offices. The Grand Jury found the department to be very efficient and we commend Ms. Baker for securing computers and modern operating systems for the department in a most cost conscious manner. The process for jury selection has greatly improved over past systems and has met with the approval of this Grand Jury.

PRESENTMENT NO. 10

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, found that Bailiff's pay had been increased to \$70 per day as recommended by the September 2003, January 2005 and May 2005 Grand Juries.

PRESENTMENT NO. 11

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, would like to thank Chief Mark Kissel of the Cherokee County School District Police Department for educating this Grand Jury on the specific types of drug related issues in our school district. Chief Kissel has taken a proactive approach of obtaining \$20,000.00 in funds to purchase a K-9 to be trained in drug detection for use in our school system. The K-9 would also be utilized in educating the parents and children of Cherokee County on the dangers of drug use. We recommend that the Cherokee County School System allow for future funding of the K-9's ongoing upkeep in their yearly budget.

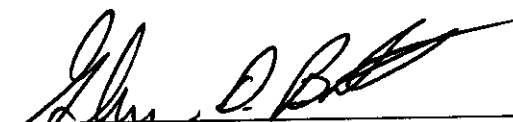
PRESENTMENT NO. 12

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, would like to thank Dr. Susan Zinkil, Director of Special Needs for the Cherokee County School District for meeting with the grand jury concerning the issue of time-out / seclusion rooms in the Cherokee County School District. Dr. Zinkil informed the grand jury that time-out / seclusion rooms are no longer being utilized in the Cherokee County School District. Dr. Zinkil also informed this grand jury that policy is in the process of being written which would ban the use of time-out / seclusion rooms in our district. The four rooms in question, two at Creekland Middle School and two at Freedom Middle School are not being utilized. The electromagnetic locking devices have been disconnected. The rooms no longer lock. Upon follow up, Dr. Zinkil informed this grand jury that shelving has been ordered to change the time-out / seclusion rooms to storage closets. The time out labels have been removed from the doors and exterior red buttons covered. We would like to commend Dr. Zinkil for the proactive measures she has taken to rectify the use of time-out rooms in our school district. This grand jury recommends the January 2007 grand jury follow up to ensure policy has been put into place banning the use of time-out / seclusion rooms in the Cherokee County School District.

PRESENTMENT NO. 13

We, the September 2006 Grand Jury, would like to recognize the following individuals for their appointment to the 2007 Tax Equalization Board.

- Bob Woodall
- Anthony Baumgartner
- Ty Adams
- Lamar Barton

  
Glenn Bates  
ASSISTANT FOREMAN

CHEROKEE COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

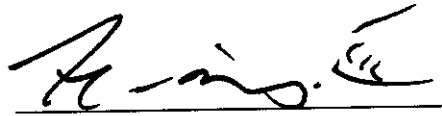
ORDER

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 12 day of NOV, 2006.

  
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Judge, Superior  
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

FILED IN OFFICE  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA  
06 DEC 12 PM 3:59  
PATTY BAKER, CLERK

Rec. 12/13/06