

TO: The Honorable Cheryl Blackburn Division III Criminal Court
The Honorable Victor S. Johnson District Attorney General

FROM: Patrick Saltkill

REF: Report of the Grand Jury - April '98 Term

It has been an honor to serve our community as members of the April '98 term of the Davidson County Grand Jury. We would like to express our appreciation to Judge Blackburn and her staff, District Attorney General Johnson and his staff and the Metro Police personnel who testified before us for the courtesy and professionalism they showed throughout this term. At times their work must become extremely stressful, due to its daily grind of dealing with the criminal elements of society. We are sure that "Thank You" is never said enough, so let this Grand Jury be the first to say it today. "Thanks" for your efforts toward keeping our community safe. Your hard work should be commended.

We heard testimony on several hundred cases throughout our term. It is evident that the overlying factor in most (probably 85-90%) of the crime committed in Davidson County is illegal drugs. While they may be the worst of the offenders, the drug dealers do not deserve all of the blame for this problem. Everyone who uses drugs, whether it be a street person with a daily habit or the CEOs of companies or anyone with the desire, equally shares the blame. They all share the blame for broken families, hardships, burglary of homes by an addict supporting his habit, to the kids selling drugs on the streets, child abuse by addicted parents and the gang problems in our city. Without the "user" there would be no need for the "pusher". The future of our city depends on how effective we are in dealing with the drug problems within our boundaries. It is our recommendation to the leaders of this fine city and to its citizens that we devise a plan to put a stop to this growing problem. This must be done at whatever the cost.

We the jurors have learned the following while serving our duty :

1. 50% of drugs busts were a result of the accused failing to use their "turn signal" while operating a motor vehicle thereby being pulled over by the police officer.
2. Crack cocaine is the #1 drug in Nashville.
3. Child abuse spans all walks of life and income levels.
4. Guns seem to be the weapon of choice by the younger generation proving easy accessibility by virtually anyone.
5. We heard all the various gruesome forms of murder.
6. We inquired why the Metropolitan Police have a ticket quota.
7. A trip to the Riverbend Maximum Security Prison proved to be very educational. We believe that prisoners have too much freedom.

In closing, I am thankful to have been chosen Grand Jury Foreperson and for the opportunity to serve with a wonderful Grand Jury.

Respectfully submitted this 26th day of June 1998.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY
FOR JANUARY TERM, 1998**

to

**The Honorable J. Randall Wyatt, Jr.
Judge, Criminal Court, Div. II
Davidson County, Tennessee**

During the past three (3) months we have served as the Grand Jury for Davidson County, Tennessee, and we appreciate the opportunity to fulfill this civic duty.

We have heard in excess of eight hundred (800) cases. The majority of the cases were presented by very efficient and conscientious police officers, who work under difficult and dangerous conditions. They deserve total support from the community and the Courts.

We found that a great number of the cases presented to the Grand Jury were drug related. We feel there must be some deterrent to these activities, such as: penalties should be greater than the gain, repeat offenders should face punishment which includes longer prison confinement and increased fines, and the time a person is confined should not be spent before a television, body building, socializing, etc.

The case regarding Mr. Calvin Shaw, an inmate who died while incarcerated in the Metro jail, was submitted by District Attorney General Torry Johnson for this Grand Jury's review. The previous Grand Jury recommended that this Grand Jury review the facts of this case and make recommendations to prevent reoccurrences of events of this type. Our recommendations are as follows:

- [1] Video cameras should be installed in the confinement areas for the purpose of viewing all activities.
- [2] Inmates with mental disorders and/or taking medication for mental disorders should not be housed with other inmates.
- [3] We would like to add our support to all of the recommendations made by the Citizens' Advisory Committee which was appointed by the Mayor. Every recommendation should be implemented and subsequent Grand Juries should be advised of their implementation.

We want to encourage the creation of and support for neighborhood associations to help rid our communities of illegal activities.

We want to express our appreciation to District Attorney General Torry Johnson and his staff, especially Ms. Sandra Mullins and Ms. Georgia Smith for their assistance during our term.

We also want to thank you, Judge Wyatt, for the opportunity to serve, and to your staff, especially Mr. Ed Lambert and Mrs. Linda Hoffman, for their aid and support. It has been an honor to serve your Court and the community in which we live.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Sharbel
Pat Sharbel, Foreman

Robert M. Drey

Anita Hunt

Ray T. Kutz

George W. Haba

Linda Jones

Paul Chabon

May Weber

Phillip G. Bowers

Daisy M. Sprigle

Linda W. Waddell

Joan E. Perry

Demetria Simmons