

**REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY**  
*April 2001 Term*

**I. OVERVIEW**

Most people who are summoned for jury service approach it with a degree of apprehension and consternation. The members of the Davidson County Grand Jury, April 2001 Term, are proud to report that it has been a distinct honor and privilege to have served under The Honorable J. Randall Wyatt, Judge, Division II, Criminal Court. The experience of serving and the insight gained has proven to be educational and rewarding. The members of this jury would encourage any citizen of Davidson County who may be summoned for service to take advantage of the opportunity to gain invaluable knowledge and insight into our criminal justice system. We are confident that they would develop a profound appreciation for those individuals responsible for the safety and well being of the citizens of Davidson County.

The members of the Grand Jury heard over 700 cases during the April 2001 Term. As usual, the majority of the cases were drug related. Most cases were presented by police officers, who were generally well prepared and dedicated to their work. We gained deeper respect for and greater knowledge of their service and commend them and other law enforcement agencies for their service in upholding the law and providing to the best of their abilities a safe haven for the residents of Davidson County.

We would like to thank Judge Wyatt and his staff, particularly Linda Hoffman and Ed Lambert, for their assistance and support. We also wish to thank District Attorney General Torry Johnson and the staff for their tireless efforts throughout our term. Special thanks is extended to Georgia Smith, Charity High and the attorneys, particularly Michaela Mathews. They provided valuable assistance and insight during our deliberations.

**II. CONCERNS**

- Drug Related Crimes

Drug related crimes continue to dominate a large proportion of criminal activity in Davidson County. The Metro Police Department is to be commended for their efforts in addressing this prevailing issue. The ultimate goal to eliminate or at best minimize criminal activity must remain a priority. Achievement of this goal will require continuous evaluation of staffing to ensure that there are adequate numbers of officers reflective of our diverse community to address this growing and very complex problem. Additionally, efforts to remain current with the latest law enforcement technology are necessary. It is evident to us that this technology expedites and greatly supports the work of the Vice Division. Elected officials must continue to ensure that adequate funding is made available to achieve this goal.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tennessean Article

We recommend that copies of the *Tennessean* article by Sandra Roberts be given to the jury pool. It is an excellent overview of the work of the Grand Jury and would be an excellent educational tool for all.

### IV. SITE VISITS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Site Visits

We had the opportunity to engage in several site visits. These experiences gave us clearer insight into the intricacies of the system.

- ▶ Police Training Academy

The jurors had the opportunity to participate in FATS. This was a valuable experience that helped the jurors better understand the split-second decisions and reactions required by police officers. This training, as well as the extensive and in-depth training the officers receive, is excellent. We support this initial education and ongoing education for the women and men of the Metro Police Department who are placed in very difficult situations.

- ▶ Metro Jail

We believe that citizens have little knowledge of the Metro Jail's function and the challenges faced by jail staff. We recommend that trained personnel be available to provide support and ongoing training for the women and men who are working in this very difficult area.

- ▶ Prison

We were most impressed with the security and cleanliness of the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution.

- ▶ Police Department/Night Court/Warrant Office/Bonding Company

This experience gave us valuable insight into the initial processes of the criminal court system.

- Speakers

Presentations by:

- ▶ Vice Division -- Captain Judy Bawcum
- ▶ Domestic Violence Division - Captain Valerie Meece

These presentations were outstanding and of great assistance to us in our deliberations. We are grateful to each of these individuals for helping us to do our work more thoughtfully and with more knowledge.

V. SUMMARY

Again, it has been a privilege for me to serve as Foreperson of the Grand Jury. Of course, this work is the work of the jury and many others. I commend the jurors for their thoughtfulness in deliberations and their quest for learning. I thank the alternates who so willingly responded to the call, Patricsa Cummings and Cecilia Benton for their excellent record keeping and Larry Hereford for executing his duties as Sergeant at Arms. Thanks also to Ed Lambert for his assistance in arranging for alternate jurors and for coordinating our site visits, and to the Sheriff's Department for providing us safe transportation. Thanks again to Georgia Smith and Charity High, who made our work move smoothly and who were always there for support and to answer questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Thurman L. Smith

Thurman L. Smith, Foreperson

Cecilia Benton

Cecilia Benton

Deborah Brinton

Deborah Brinton

Patricsa Cummings

Patricsa Cummings

Nicholas Gaietto

Nicholas Gaietto

Larry Hereford

Larry Hereford

Penny Lancaster

Penny Lancaster

Joyce Long

Joyce Long

Shelby Malmstrom

Shelby Malmstrom

Gwendolyn McDonald

Gwendolyn McDonald

Derek Ramey

Derek Ramey

Dwayne Scivally

Dwayne Scivally

Kimberly Walker

Kimberly Walker