

# Grand Jury Final Report

January 2010 Term

Submitted to

Honorable Judge Monte D. Watkins

Criminal Court, Division V

Davidson County, Tennessee

## *Overview*

This is the final report of the Davidson County Grand Jury for the January 2010 term. After a slightly difficult term, these are our recommendations, commendations, and conclusions.

## *Summary*

We were impaneled and sworn in by Judge Watkins in November 2009. Our term began on January 5, 2010 and ended on March 26, 2010. We dealt with a number of difficult issues including snow days, the loss of 2 regular jurors and revolving alternates. We heard a total of 716 cases and voted true bill on 701 of those cases. We felt that there was not sufficient evidence to indict on those cases that were voted as no true bills.

## *Recommendations*

We have several recommendations. Most of these have been suggested by previous grand juries, but they need repeating.

1. Due to recent economic times, the pay for jurors should be increased to at least \$25 a day. This is suggested to cover the cost of lunch/breakfasts and fuel. Not to mention the time lost from work.
2. Tougher sentencing on DUI and drug possession cases. Multiple repeat offenders appeared on dockets and frankly took up too much time. They also clog the full judicial system.
3. Sex offenders should be required to list their place of employment.

4. There should be a drug offender registry, similar to the sex offender registry. The recidivism in drug cases is tremendous and also clogging the entire judicial system.
5. A rereading of the Charge to the Grand Jury should occur on day one of service. Most jurors forgot, or needed reminding what exactly we were here for.
6. Suspended/revoked license, sex offender register failures, and most misdemeanors should be resolved in General Sessions Court.
7. Pictures or other visual aids available should be utilized in witness presentations.
8. A covering of some kind needs to be put on the outdoor court in the Juvenile Justice Center. This is a remarkable program, and yes they should be able to have recreation time in all weather.
9. Domestic violence information should be presented to students starting in Middle School. We need to enforce better values in children at a younger age.
10. Field trips and informational talks should be done all in the first two weeks of service. Also they should all be mandatory for all jurors, regular and alternates.
11. Penalties should be in place for jurors who fail to show. We were sworn in to do this and a legal oath was taken. It puts strain on other jurors and the grand jury as a whole when there are not 13 people present at the starting time or any other time someone needs to leave early. A larger pool of jurors/alternates is recommended, if possible by law.
12. The jury foreman should be well versed in the system, fully understanding laws and the process as a whole. The foreperson should also know his duties and procedures.

13. Judge Norman's DC4 Drug program is an exemplary program and should be expanded.

### *Commendations*

We would like to thank all of those officers who enlightened us with their presentations and those who guided us through our field trips. We would like to commend those who served as witnesses for each indictment, especially Detective Keith Stevens, Sergeant Gene Donegan, and Sergeant Lyles for their presentment of the majority of the cases. Thank you to Attorney General Torry Johnson and his staff for their patience in fielding our numerous questions and interruptions. We would like to show appreciation to Lori Hooberry, our Grand Jury coordinator for setting up our schedule and her general help. A special thank you to Tamika Clarke in Judge Watkins' office for her help in setting up field trips and speakers and in the most difficult job of acquiring alternates to keep our panel at thirteen. We express sincere gratitude to Stephanie Mosley as our super fun field trip driver.

### *Conclusions*

This has been an experience that none of us will ever forget. Some of us will look back on it fondly, others not so much. But none the less, it has been a learning experience for us all. We now have a better understanding of the laws and the service that our law enforcement agents perform.

X

---

Arnett Bodenhammer  
Foreman

X *Heather Jackson*

Heather A. Jackson

X *Kim M. Vinett*

Kim M. Vinett

X *Phyllis R. West*

Phyllis R. West

X *Teresa E. Stafford*

Teresa E. Stafford

X *NaQuana Norman*

NaQuana Norman

X *Rhonda B. Reece*

Rhonda B. Reece

X *Suzzann M. Behayo*

Suzzann M. Behayo

X

Janet S. Parham

X *James Homer Sr.*

James Homer, Sr.

X

Paul Hendricks

X *Shannon M.A. Pennell*

Shannon M.A. Pennell

X *Ronald Woodruff*

Ronald Woodruff