

**Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A**  
**Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

**GENERAL OPENING COMMENTS**

This Grand Jury heard 919 cases. We returned 908 True Bills and 11 No True Bills.

It is the consensus of the members of this Grand Jury that it has been an honor to serve our county in this capacity. While the subject matter was often terrifying and saddening, the overall experience was educational and rewarding. Each juror leaves this term with a greater understanding of the administration of justice and all elements of the Davidson County Judicial System.

As law-abiding citizens, it can sometimes be easy to take our safety and security for granted. It can also be easy to pass judgment on members of law enforcement based on what we see on leisure television or in the reporting media.

During our term, we were reminded that there are many dedicated individuals, and departments-at-large, who choose to put themselves at risk, physically and emotionally, to protect and serve the citizens of Davidson County.

We extend our sincere appreciation and immense gratitude for what you endure on our behalf.

**Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A**  
**Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY GUEST SPEAKERS**

Prior to hearing cases in our first week, we heard from many law enforcement departments: the Drug Task Force, the Gang Unit, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse (with the representative from Our Kids), Sex Crimes Unit, Warrants, and DUI. The informational briefings were valuable in our obtaining a better understanding of the many coordinating elements of our Criminal Justice system, and the Grand Jury's role in that system.

We recommend that informational briefings about the following topics be included for the next Grand Jury term: the Sex Offender Registry Violations; the Community Service for Life (Certificates, Specialized Conditions); and how those elements are similar, or differ, from Criminal Supervision and Probation. We also recommend an informational briefing on the classification of sexual offenders (violent vs. non-violent).

We recommend that Garen Blanchard, Na'Gasha Graham, and Luke Yates be involved by either preparing the presentation or attending the first week of Grand Jury as guest speakers. All three individuals were very knowledgeable and were valuable resources of information. Mr. Blanchard, Ms. Graham, and Mr. Yates were able to effectively answer our questions about the role of those divisions in post-incarceration enforcement and continued community protection.

## Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A Judge Monte D. Watkins

---

### FIELD TRIPS

Field trips were scheduled throughout our term: Drug Court, Police Academy, Juvenile Court, Coroner's Office, and Charles B. Bass Correctional Complex. The field trips were essential in giving the Grand Jurors another opportunity to understand and experience our extensive judicial system.

Several jurors left Drug Court with a completely different opinion of the residents and program than we did going in, and we agree with the statement in the Grand Jury Final Report from the January to March 2012 term "*...What a great program...*"

In order to continue to change the painful and dangerous impact drugs and addiction have on our families, friends, and the welfare of society as a whole, investing in conscious and supportive rehabilitation of non-violent drug offenders is one of many difficult steps we must continue to take as a community. The DC4 program appears to successfully intervene in the recidivism of repeat drug offenders by providing many individuals an opportunity to simultaneously fight for their freedom from addiction, and earn their freedom back into society as functional and productive citizens.

Some of the jurors were surprised to learn that drug court is partially funded via grants, in addition to state and limited federal funding. We recommend our representatives continue to embrace, support and fund this program.

We also visited the Police Academy. While we did not have the extensive tour experience that prior Grand Juries had, it did not diminish our overall impression of the excellent training facility and program we have for future officers, and the continuing education program we have for our current officers.

Many of us did not realize, and were pleased to learn, that the Police Academy program includes training in diverse socio-economic community relations as well as standard police and law enforcement skill sets.

**Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A**  
**Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

During our tour of the Juvenile Justice Center, it was clear that the staff is dedicated to doing what they can with the resources they have available to them in order to fulfill their collective missions.

Some of the jurors are left with the impression that there is something else that can be done to further that coordination and collaboration among the schools, DCS, the Child Advocacy Center and the Juvenile Justice Center, but we are unable to provide specific recommendations at this time.

Perhaps the best ideas for better coordination and collaboration on case administration can come from the all levels of staff of those departments and organizations. It is usually those closest to the issues who have the best ideas for proposed solutions regarding the challenges they face day-to-day in carrying out their missions.

Before attempting to legislate bureaucratic changes in response to issues currently under public scrutiny, we strongly encourage our representatives to listen to those dedicated individuals and take into serious and thoughtful consideration the recommendations of those dedicated individuals for agency changes and additional resources.

Some of the jurors were surprised that the architectural design of the Juvenile Justice Center presents supervision challenges for the correctional staff and while we cannot change the structure of the building, we do support the staff's request for a covering for the outdoor exercise area. A 2012 Grand Jury also mentioned this need in their report. This 2013 Grand Jury recommends and encourages the same.

The Coroner's Office is an immaculate facility and it is maintained by a professional and courteous staff.

We also toured the Charles B. Bass Correctional Complex and (again) encountered a professional, courteous, and dedicated staff at a well-managed facility. This is another example of something that law-abiding citizens may take for granted: there are individuals serving time

**Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A**  
**Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

for the crimes they committed who want to serve their time safely, and there are individuals who choose to enter the corrections profession who believe that serving time includes ensuring the safety of those incarcerated, and believe strongly in the incorporation of rehabilitation programs to reduce recidivism. When those groups of people are in the same facility, it is difficult to deny there is an amount of measurable success in many areas.

On the day of our visit, the facility was receiving installation of video technology, that quite frankly, we were surprised they did not already have. We recommend a review of the technology budgets to ensure our corrections facilities have what they need in order to provide what they are required to provide: the safety of those incarcerated and the safety of those charged with maintaining that safety.

In general, we recommend that field trips for Grand Jurors continue with each term, but suggest that scheduling the trips earlier in the term will be beneficial to the overall process; as would a general explanation of the significance of the Grand Jury participation in these field trips.

Specifically, we recommend that the following tours be considered for future terms: 911 call center, ride-along program, general sessions, and booking.

**Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A**  
**Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

**GENERAL TORRY JOHNSON AND HIS STAFF**

We extend our gratitude to General Johnson and his staff for their support and guidance during our term. They were professional, courteous, and demonstrated respect for our role as the Grand Jury. Thank you for your continued service.

**OFFICER LILES AND OFFICER BANDISH**

Should Officer Liles ever leave his current position to begin utilizing the JD he recently earned, we recommend that he be involved in all training of future Grand Jury witnesses. In fact, the experience of both Officers is a valuable resource to the preparation and support of all future witnesses. Officer Liles and Officer Bandish have developed an efficient and refined system of briefing themselves on the charges, presenting the facts, and connecting those facts and elements to each count on the indictments, enabling the Grand Jury deliberations to be more efficient than we would be if we had to do without witnesses like Officer Liles and Officer Bandish.

## **Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

### **GRAND JUROR COMMENTS REGARDING OUR FOREPERSON**

As a lifelong resident of Davidson County, a retired attorney, and a long-time community leader, Edward T. Kindall was an excellent appointment by Judge Watkins. While we understand that the Foreperson of the Grand Jury is required to only be as fit to serve as the Jurors, Mr. Kindall's extensive legal knowledge was of high value to this Grand Jury. Mr. Kindall effortlessly guided us through the process and procedures, and he was elemental in helping us understand our roles and responsibilities.

### **FOREPERSON COMMENTS REGARDING THE GRAND JURORS**

I express my sincere thanks to each member who served as regular or as alternate on this Grand Jury panel. I want to commend each member with their ability to maintain courteous decorum during especially difficult and intense deliberations.

I thank Kenneth Johnson, Sr. for his efficient service as the sergeant-at-arms, and Emogene Harris for stepping in as alternate foreperson when I was unable to serve.

I especially thank the secretary, Jessica Miller. I want to also thank Jennifer Gobeille who assumed the duties of the secretary when Jessica found she could no longer serve. I also thank Jennifer for taking the time to assist with preparation of our final report.

# **Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A**

## **Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

### **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to the specific recommendations listed in the above sections, we recommend the following:

There were a few witnesses who came to present without any documentation and had difficulty addressing Grand Juror inquiries. We recommend advising first-time witnesses that the Grand Jury recommends they bring any supporting documents; (e.g. medical records in abuse cases). It is not expected that the witnesses recall, on-demand, all facts from memory alone. Not everyone can have an impeccable photographic memory like Stephen Scott Ray; that was impressive, but even he brought documents with him to testify.

On the first day of Grand Jury Duty, we recommend a re-reading of the Grand Jury Oath and Charge, paragraph by paragraph, with a layperson's description of the legalese. This will give the regular and alternate Jurors an opportunity to ask questions and seek any necessary clarification of their duties from the appropriate person(s).

We recommend reviewing a short sample case list and the most often used abbreviations for the counts on the indictments. (e.g. Int/Kn, Poss.w/Int-Cont.Sub, Poss.or C/S).

On the case list, it is clear when it is a Police Officer is the testifying witness. In order to reduce confusion, we recommend including a brief note for the non-police officer witnesses. (e.g. "D. Yates, Parole Officer" or "T. Smith, Dillard's")

We recommend reviewing the ways presentments and indictments arrive to the Grand Jury, and a brief discussion of some of the commonly seen charges that may not have been previously addressed by the Guest Speakers (e.g. the difference between Implied Consent-Civil and Implied Consent-Criminal; DUI and DUI per se; sealed versus superseding indictments, and direct presentment versus regular presentment).

**Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County - Term 2013-A**  
**Judge Monte D. Watkins**

---

We recommend reviewing a sample indictment and a brief discussion of why multiple, seemingly-duplicative counts may be listed on an indictment for the purposes of alternative theories.

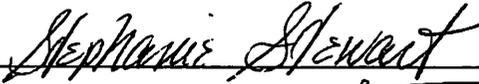
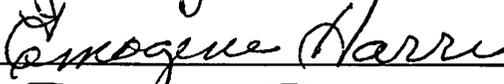
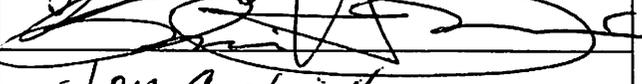
After the jurors have heard a few days of cases, and prior to the scheduled field trips, we recommend a review of a few prior Grand Jury reports and a general explanation of the significance of the Grand Jury participation in these field trips, to include: what information (observations, comments, recommendations) the Judge is seeking in the Grand Jury's final report.

**FIELD TRIP TRANSPORTATION**

We recommend scheduling more than one van for the transportation of jurors to the destinations. The Sheriff's van, while 'roomy,' was a bit 'cozy' for 12+ law-abiding adults.

Grand Jury Final Report - Davidson County  
 Term 2013-A  
 Judge Monte D. Watkins

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE 2013-A GRAND JURORS

PRINT	SIGN
Edmund T. Kindell	
Luke Keultjes	
Ms. Regina Tyson	
FRANCES WILLIAMS	
Kimberly Smith	
Wilmeia Robinson	
STEPHANIE STEWART	
William C Shockley	
JOE JACKSON	
Timogene Harris	
Darron Dunnaway	
Jodi N. Stepp	
Brian Harrington	
Jennifer Gobeille	
Kenneth Johnson Sr	Jen Gobeille %/o K. Johnson Sr