

Judson Randolph, M.D.  
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Nashville, Tennessee 37205

COPY

*TORY*  
*It was a great opportunity. Saw people who were very helpful - Just*

October 10, 1996

The Honorable Seth Walker Norman  
Judge, Criminal Court - Division IV  
608 Metro Courthouse  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

Dear Judge Norman,

As promised, the grand jury for the term July, August, September of 1996 has met and offered a series of deliberations some of which you heard in person on our last day's reporting session. By agreement we are forwarding these comments for your perusal and to place before District Attorney General Johnson, Chief of Police Turner and Mayor Bredesen.

First and foremost we would like to endorse with highest praise the police officers whom we saw in our daily meetings. They are well-educated, well-selected, articulate, and physically well-turned out. They are knowledgeable in the law and each and every one of them that we saw is a credit to the Department and to themselves. While these observations apply especially to the younger members of the force, we met with more senior officers with long-standing service to our community who are exemplary as well. Our observations include the sex abuse/domestic violence unit whose officers are sensitive and dedicated. They understand the complex psychological factors which they encounter daily and they have remarkable awareness of the assaults with which they must deal.

Finally, in this supportive appraisal of the police department, we wish to make special mention of those officers serving both undercover and in uniform in the drug violations morass which encumbers this and apparently all other cities. We found these officers to be unusually resourceful, and courageous in actions they take daily in their interactions with many hardened and dangerous individuals. During our tenure this Jury saw and especially appreciated Officer McCall who happened to make many presentations before us. He was strong, thorough, knowledgeable, and had a great view of the world around him, and was exemplary of the many, many other officers we did not come to know well.

The Grand Jury was especially enlightened by the extracurricular trips which you, Ms. Hunter, and others arranged for us. The River Bend Prison and the DeBerry Center were two institutions which we visited. Like so many people who see these institutions superficially and for the first time, we felt they were extraordinarily luxurious for people who were incarcerated for crimes against their community. We do understand the need for exercise and other programs to keep prisoners occupied and to reduce their own frustrations. However, we came to the conclusion (as have many others)

that a work program of 40 hours or more per week in some constructive endeavors which a back society is not only desirable and useful, but fair. All prisoners would benefit from an (mandatory?) educational program in an effort to moderate the recidivism that is so common.

One of the highlights of our service these three months was the trip to the Police Academy. We found an extraordinary faculty, a dedicated group of men and women who are providing police trainees with the tools and knowledge that will serve them well as they in turn serve the community. The physical fitness program was outstanding as was the K-9 dog training department. The men and women in all of the units at the Academy seemed to be teachers and splendid examples for those coming along.

Our combined experience left us with several concerns which we would like to pass on to Attorney General Johnson;

A) Our Police Force arrests drug dealers, burglars, and habitual criminals with good work at personal risk. Many, (most), of these individuals are back out dealing or robbing a few days later. This is highly discouraging to the front line units of the Police Department.

B) The illegal alien influx in Davidson County as elsewhere strains the welfare system. It puts an increased burden on the criminal justice system. Many of these individuals, particularly those from Mexico, seem involved in the drug trade. It was heartening to see in the local news recently that two dozen illegal aliens were rounded up. This, however, is the tip of the iceberg. While we realize this growing problem is under the federal jurisdiction, we believe strongly that the community of Metropolitan Nashville should bring pressure on the federal agency to provide additional effort and protection against this destructive incursion.

C) A number of juveniles are committing serious crimes, including aggravated rape, murder and the current system does not provide for appropriate penalties. We were faced with examples where a hardened criminal would have a juvenile along and would encourage the juvenile to commit the actual crime since their penalty is so mild.

In conclusion, we are proud of the system under which we served and the individuals who carry the criminal justice system on their backs on a daily basis. The leadership which you, Attorney General Johnson, Chief of Police Turner, and Mayor Bredesen provide is deeply appreciated not only by the group which had the opportunity to see your work up close, but all citizens of our Metropolitan Nashville home.

Yours sincerely,

Judson Randolph, M.D.  
Foreman, Grand Jury of Davidson County  
July, August, September 1996

cc: Attorney General Victor S. Johnson, III  
The Honorable Phil Bredesen  
Chief of Police Emmitt Turner

Grand Jury Members

Ms. Brenda Batson  
Mr. Arthur Franklin, Jr.  
Ms. Debbie Renee Goodwin  
Mr. Joel W. Hallman  
Mr. Roy L. Johnson  
Mrs. Geneva C. Krantz  
Mr. David Lawrence  
Mr. Jack G. Shannon  
Mr. Charles E. Smith  
Mr. John C. Tune  
Mr. William T. Waggoner  
Mr. Andrew D. Ward  
Mrs. Cynthia McCullough (active alternate)  
Ms. Carole A. Newman (active alternate)  
Mrs. Earlean G. Jones (active alternate)