

# **Grand Jury Report**

**July-September 2013 term**

Submitted to  
The Hon. Steve R. Dozier  
Judge, Criminal Court Division I  
Davidson County, Tennessee  
Sept. 27, 2013

## **Grand Jury report July – September 2013**

The members of the Davidson County Jury submit this report at the conclusion of our three-month term.

In accordance with Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedure, the grand jurors heard and deliberated upon 619 cases over the past three months. We presented the court with the following:

- Bound over: 527 True Bills and 3 No True Bills
- Sealed: 69 True Bills and 0 No True Bills

It has been an honor and privilege to serve our fellow citizens as grand jurors, and we express our appreciation and thanks to those who took the time to present to us, including representatives of the following:

- The Metro Police Department
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- United States Secret Service
- Metro Park Police
- Vanderbilt University and Tennessee State University police departments
- The police departments of Belle Meade, Berry Hill and Goodlettsville
- Loss prevention personnel from WalMart, Kroger, Home Depot, Old Navy and other stores.

During our first-week orientation, we heard presentations from District Attorney General Victor "Torry" Johnson III and several law-enforcement departments, including the Drug Task Force, the Gang Unit, Domestic Violence, Child Protective Services, Sex Crimes Unit, Warrants and DUI. Grand Jury Secretary Lori Hooberry arranged these briefings, which provided an important knowledge base about the criminal-justice system and the grand jury's role in that system.

In addition, many of the officers and agents who presented cases to the grand jury took additional time to answer questions about their departments. Assistant district attorneys Rodney Faulk, Kathy Morante and Karen Fentress made themselves available any time we had a question about procedures or points of law.

Mayor Karl Dean and Chief of Police Steve Anderson visited later in the session, graciously sharing their perspectives on Nashville and their visions for their city.

Our grand-jury foreperson, Stan Fossick, arranged several field trips during the term that broadened the jury members' understanding of our judicial system.

The Metro Police Training Academy, which included presentations from the K9 and aviation units, gave us a better sense of the training our city's police officers receive. We especially appreciated the opportunity to see an aerial view from Nashville, as the helicopter pilots explained how they provide support to officers on the ground.

Later, a trip to one of the police department's weekly Compstat meetings helped provide a citywide perspective on crime and law enforcement.

Visiting Riverbend Maximum Security Institution was an eye-opening experience for the jury members, helping humanize the people we heard about daily in presented cases and helping us be more conscious of the implications of our decisions.

The trip to Davidson County Drug Court made, perhaps, the biggest impression on the jury members, especially since many of us didn't even know about the program before we began our service. The jury applauds Judge Seth Norman for his efforts in establishing and overseeing the drug court. We cannot recommend highly enough this program and encourage other communities to invest in similar programs to support the rehabilitation of non-violent drug offenders.

The grand jury would particularly like to commend Sergeant David Liles on his presentation of cases. Sergeant Liles combines a concise,

articulate delineation of a case's pertinent facts with a keen eye for colorful detail and impeccably timed delivery. Some of the other officers who appeared before the grand jury could learn a thing or two from Sergeant Liles and his storytelling skills — in fact, we'd recommend that he, if so inclined, train other officers in how to prepare and present their cases. A clear through-line in the story of a case can sometimes make the difference between a True Bill and No True Bill.

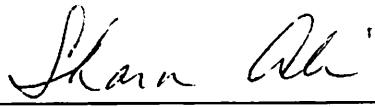
Finally, the members of the grand jury would like to express our gratitude to and admiration for our foreperson, Stan Fossick. Mr. Fossick brought more than two decades of invaluable expertise to his position, and he willingly shared it with us daily. He expertly presided over a group coming from a wide range of ages, neighborhoods, ethnicities and personality types, facilitating a cordial atmosphere in the grand-jury room while instilling each of us with a sense of duty and responsibility. Nashville is fortunate to have someone as knowledgeable and dedicated as him.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As previously mentioned, we'd recommend that any Metro police officers presenting cases before a grand jury have the opportunity to spend some time with David Liles learning how to lay out the facts of their cases clearly and articulately.
2. We recommend that future grand jurors continue to be encouraged to schedule ride-alongs with Metro police officers. Many members of our panel went on ride-alongs and came back with new perspectives on both the sections of Nashville in which they live and the officers who serve the city.
3. We recommend a presentation board for the grand jury room. The video screen and PowerPoint presentations were very helpful for the cases with visual components or a large number of defendants. However, something smaller and low-tech, like a dry-erase board, could prove useful when laying out the facts or the timeline of an investigation with multiple elements.

For the Grand Jury, July-September 2013

  
STAN FOSSICK, Foreperson

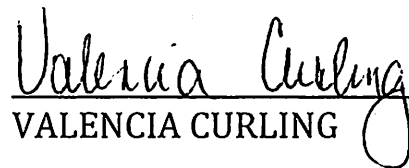
  
SHARON ALI

  
LARRY CARPENTER

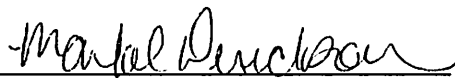
  
AMY COOPER

  
TIFFANY CRAWFORD

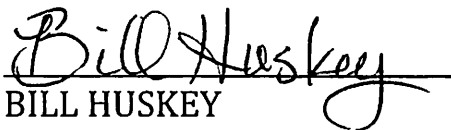
  
THOMAS CROWDER SR.

  
VALENCIA CURLING

  
SHANE DALTON

  
MARKEL DERRICKSON

  
LANE GARDNER

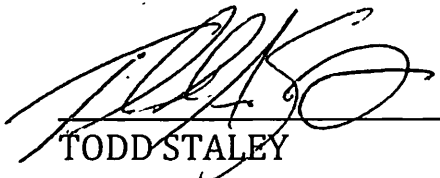
  
BILL HUSKEY

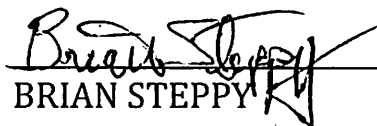
  
BRIAN MANSFIELD

  
LINDA PROUDFOOT

  
NANCY SMITH

  
TRISH SMITH

  
TODD STALEY

  
BRIAN STEPPY