

Report of the Grand Jury
October Term 1994
to
The Honorable Seth Norman
Judge, Division IV Criminal Court
Davidson County, Tennessee

During the past three (3) months we have served as the Grand Jury for the Criminal Court of Davidson County, Tennessee. We have returned 637 True Bills and 7 No True Bills.

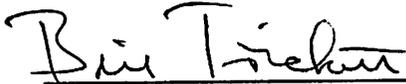
The support of the District Attorney's office has been excellent. The office of the Metropolitan Police Department appearing before us have presented themselves in an outstanding fashion. We were impressed.

I made a request of Sgt. Melvin S. Brown, Jr. to send me a written report on matters we requested and his report is enclosed and made a part of our report. The Grand Jury is in total accord with Sgt. Brown's recommendations. He is one of many dedicated officers that impressed us.

Futhermore, the Grand Jury is extremely concerned about the large number of vehicles in violation of present laws as it pertains to tinted windows and windshields. The offenders are simply not being challenged. Our concern is for the safety of police officers. Arrests need to be made and media needs to publicize the arrests. The potential for harm is horrendous.

Finally, as Foreman, let me add that this Grand Jury was extremely qualified. They were pleased to do their civic duty and represent the citizens of Davidson County.

Respectfully submitted



Bill Trickett
Davidson County Grand Jury
October Term 1994

SERGEANT MELVIN BROWN
METRO POLICE DEPT.
NASHVILLE, TENN.
CENTRAL CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT

12-12-94

Mr. Bill Trickett, Foreman
Davidson County Grand Jury

Dear Sir,

It has been a pleasure to see the concern for the drug problems in our community that has been expressed by the current session of the Davidson County Grand Jury.

At a recent appearance before the Grand Jury, you asked me to submit, in writing, what I thought would help, on the state level. Therefore, I humbly submit the following information and suggestions.

In Metro alone, there are many arrests for selling controlled substances, usually crack cocaine. In the six month period of May through November 1994, the Central Patrol Crime Suppression B Detail made 261 arrests of persons for selling drugs to undercover Police Officers. These arrests were done in the "BUY-BUST" method, where the seller(s) were immediately arrested by takedown Officers after selling to an undercover Officer. Apx. 25 of these defendants were juveniles and were, for the most part released from detention immediately. The remaining 225 or more received plea bargain sentences of 3 years at 30%, which is about 11 months unless released earlier for overcrowding. Some of the defendants were higher range offenders, based on past convictions, and received longer sentences. Some, of course, were allowed to serve Probation for their sentence and not confined.

I truly believe. .

IF ALL PRISON SENTENCES WERE 100% OF THEIR STATED LENGTH, EVEN WITH REASONABLE PAROLE CONSIDERATIONS, THE CRIME RATE WOULD MARKEDLY DECREASE.

. . .and the initial expense to accommodate this would level off in an eventual decrease in inmate population due to the preventative effect of a reasonable punishment.

These changes could be put in effect:

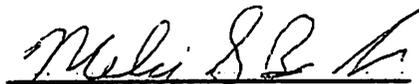
All convictions or guilty pleas for selling, delivering, or manufacturing a Schedule II controlled substance would be subject to:

- * NO PROBATION
- ** NO SUSPENDED SENTENCES
- *** ALL SENTENCES IN EFFECT AT 100%
- **** NO PAROLE CONSIDERATION

If these changes were instituted, within a short time, the vast amount of resources that are dedicated to drug related offenses could be reassigned, in my opinion.

Again, I appreciate your concern and your support of our efforts.

Sincerely,



MELVIN S. BROWN JR.