

*FINAL REPORT FOR THE GRAND JURY  
TERM ENDING DECEMBER 19, 2003*

*The Criminal Grand Jury for Davidson County for the period ending December 19, 2003 would like to submit our final report with sincere appreciation for the opportunity to be of service to our state and tremendous respect for the service law enforcement performs in our lives 24 hours a day.*

*During our short time of service, most of the indictments were presented by Metropolitan police officers. The majority of officers were well-prepared, professional, knew the law pertaining to their cases, and answered all of our questions.*

*The fact that the great majority of the cases were drug related, directly or indirectly, caused grave concern for this Grand Jury. The frustration of the many officers was evident when they testified about the numerous drug dealers they arrested and re-arrested. Sometimes they had re-arrested the same drug dealer eight or nine times. The fact that many of the drug related cases involved felony possession of a gun that could shoot as many as 18 rounds of ammunition, was of grievous concern not only for the officer who apprehends the felon, but concern for the safety of our community and the safety of our families.*

*We would like to respectfully submit the following suggestions.*

- 1. Repeat drug offenders should serve a larger portion of their sentences.*
- 2. Zero tolerance for drugs in prison including nicotine.  
Drug testing on a routine basis for prisoners. (We were informed that prison employees were a source of drugs for prisoners.)*
- 3. The state should not pay outstanding drug bills acquired by an addicted person to use him/her as a paid informant.*
- 4. Drug busts should be filmed.*
- 5. Women prisoners suggest that the state fund another drug treatment center based on the one at the Women's Prison. This program has an 85% success rate of getting women off drugs and remaining out of prison.*

6. **Move felony weapons indictments to federal court whenever possible. There are too many dangerous weapons on the street.**
7. **Pressure the federal government to assume responsibility for allowing so many illegal drugs to come into this country and ending up on the streets of Tennessee.**
8. **Helicopters are effective in crime enforcement. They need to be available to fly 24/7 weather. At the present time, there are not enough pilots and they need a mechanic.**
9. **Axis Shoe Company is the only shoe company used at Riverbend. They are costly and not that comfortable according to the prisoner we interviewed.**
10. **Televisions at Riverbend in the minimum-security area cost \$160 and can be bought at a discount retailer for \$75.**
11. **DCS needs to have emergency nutritional snack packs when they arrive on the scene to pick up children. Many times the children are hungry.**
12. **Pedophiles released from prison should be listed on the web site and their whereabouts correct at all times.**
13. **When someone is sent to testify before the Grand Jury the correct person should be sent to testify. Sending the wrong person may tie up the policeman's time and the time of the Grand Jury creating unnecessary paperwork and subpoenas.**
14. **Magistrates who set low bonds for violent crimes should be held accountable if the person commits a crime while out on bond. (We were very upset that bond had been set extremely low for homicide and attempted murder.)**

**John Jay Hooker requested to address the Grand Jury and we really appreciated the opportunity to listen to one of the great political statesmen of our time.**

15. **Statues from the Tennessee Constitution need to be reviewed by the State Legislature for relevance in today's media driven society: Article 10, Section 3 and Tennessee Code annotated 2-19-126 dealing with bribing voters.**

### **Highlights and Special Thanks**

**Stan Fossick for being our jury foreman, hero, mentor, guide and special friend. He nurtured us through a job that was painful and tragic on a daily basis. He did his job with**

competence and diligence and also had the coffee hot and the donuts fresh!

Judge Seth Norman, who swore us in as Grand Jury members, and explained the responsibilities and duties we would face during our three months of service to our community. He took his personal time to show us through the drug rehabilitation he had started for non-violent drug offenders and showed us what a difference long term drug treatment and teaching new job skills could make in changing the lives of drug offenders.

Tennessee should have a Judge Norman Drug Rehabilitation Center in every county in the state.

General Torry Johnson, for the initial address he made to the Grand Jury and answering a multitude of questions as they arose on a daily basis.

Judge Green for spending time with us and helping us understand the problems with juvenile offenders.

Sgt. Tripp who gave us a great tour of the police academy and made us aware of the dangerous life altering split second decisions law enforcement make every day.

Lt. Tim Allen who showed us Nashville by air and how important helicopters were to law enforcement.

Sgt. Gary ~~Du~~ demonstrating the intelligence and necessity of police dogs. And how brave these German Shepherds were often placing their lives between a convicted felon and a police officer.

Vice Capt. Gary Godwin gave us insight into the dark world of drugs, illegal weapons on the street, money laundering, and

drug traffic flowing from Mexico and South America to the streets of Nashville.

And all the other special people who helped us learn about law enforcement in the state of Tennessee while we were doing our job.

Visits to Men and Women's Prison  
Drug Task Force  
Juvenile Justice Center  
The police officers we rode with in their squad cars.

### What We Have Learned Serving on the Grand Jury

There are angels who walk among us: They wear uniforms, sit behind desks walk the streets drive fast cars, carry guns and rescue children and wounded people everyday. They work undercover, behind the scenes and look into the darkest corner of life, and aren't thanked enough. They sit in judgment of the worst side of humanity and start programs that bring life and light to addicted and troubled souls.

Respectfully submitted,

Grand Jury  
December 19, 2003

~~Shirley~~  
Ernestine  
Kim D. Hines  
Patricia Sullivan  
Obumama Mbe Amadi  
Alicia J. Scruggs  
Nancy P. Campbell  
Pamela Fitts RN  
Anita Terence Miscal

Mildred King  
G. C. Allen  
A. Lynn Johnson  
Devon Buford  
Loliesha Roberts  
Naniya  
Manette Johnson  
Delores H. Karnes