

Grand Jury Final Report
October-December 2016 Term
Criminal Court Division II
Judge J. Randal Wyatt, Jr., Criminal Court, Division II

Grand Jurors

Fossick, Stan, (Foreperson)	
Aparicio, Noemy	Nevin, Brenda
Corder, Jaclyn	Orr, Robert
Dixon, Scott	Ramieh, Charlotte
Gibson, Allison	Sanders, Lindsey
Guyton, Kendra	Schultz, Ronald
Hall, Adrienne	Smith-Borne, Joell
Hudgens, Jerry	Standfield, Peggy
Jamison, Rachel	

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CLERK

This summary is presented by the Grand Jury members of Davidson County for the October through December 16, 2016, term.

Introduction

We, the members of the Davidson County Grand Jury, have found the experience of serving on the Grand Jury both a privilege and honor. It is vital for citizens to perform their civic duty; service and input from the citizens allows the judicial system to function as designed with checks and balances. The following report summarizes our term as a Grand Jury.

Prior to hearing cases, several days were spent gaining an education in our police department's organization and our legal system. Metropolitan Nashville Police Department officers from the Gangs, Narcotics, Youth Services, and Domestic Violence Investigations Units, the Traffic Operations DUI Unit, and the Warrants Division gave presentations, and District Attorney Glenn Funk and several Assistant District Attorneys introduced themselves and discussed their philosophy of law enforcement and prosecution. Later in our term we met with Mayor Megan Barry, Chief Steve Anderson, Judge Wyatt, and several others. This education provided a very useful context regarding the criminal case situations we might encounter and the legal processes in Nashville.

Cases Heard

During the term, the Grand Jury heard a total of 643 cases, returned 636 as true bills, and 6 as no true bills. The Grand Jury was presented with one application to testify before the Grand

Jury. The application was reviewed by the members of the Grand Jury and it was determined that the case did not fit the guidelines to be presented to the Grand Jury.

Site Visits

During this term the Grand Jury members took several tours in order to increase our knowledge regarding the several different divisions within the judicial system of Davidson County. The areas that the jury toured and learned about included the Metropolitan Police Training Academy (Conflict Management, K-9, SWAT, Aviation, and Bomb Squad), Davidson County Drug Court (DC4—Developing Character During Confinement), Compstat (Metropolitan Nashville Police Department computer statistics), and Riverbend Maximum Security Institution. Several members also completed ride alongs with MNPD officers. Being able to tour these different facilities as well as ride along with the officers was very informative and demonstrated the dedication that Nashville has to improving the quality of life for its citizens as well as the commitment the sworn officers have to protect us.

Observations & Recommendations

- We were presented with the information that the city of Nashville is growing by about 80 people per day. With the continued growth we are concerned that we are lacking in the number of sworn officers to protect the public. As Nashville continues to grow there needs to be a plan for increasing the number of sworn officers available to serve the citizens of Davidson County in a timely manner.
- Based on the increase in violent acts against police officers in other areas across the United States, we would like to ask the city council to consider increasing the number of officers to two in a patrol car in certain high risk areas in order to help protect our police officers as well as the public.
- We have observed how thorough all the investigators and officers are in the cases they presented. We are concerned that officers have to complete their required paperwork in areas that are unsecure (i.e. side of the road, areas not well populated with the potential for violence against the officer, in the car with domestic violence victim, etc.).
- It is a privilege and honor to serve on the Grand Jury and we have concerns over potentially allowing a juror to be disrespectful while serving on the Grand Jury. Perhaps having a system that screens prospective jurors more thoroughly as well as describes a code of conduct for jurors that includes a plan that puts into place a series of warnings and a process for dismissal.
- There is a concern about the number of repeat offenders in the court system, especially DUI, Domestic Abuse, and Child Abuse cases. We would like to see these crimes addressed more vigorously within the legal system.
- Judge Seth Norman's DC4 Drug Court program is exemplary. The cost of treatment within the program is less than the cost of incarceration to the county and the recidivism rate is low. The jury feels it is a model that should be considered for expansion.

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- We noticed that several of the suspects in cases had multiple previous charges and were young in age (18–24 years old). We would like to see more education for children and young people that presents options that are available to them as they grow up as well as gives them resources to have positive role models in their life. The jury was very pleased to hear about Mayor Barry's program working with companies and agencies to help set up paid internship programs for young people, and feels that getting the word out and building support within communities and schools about this program is important for the youth of Davidson County.

Recognition

The Grand Jury would like to recognize the following individuals for their time and effort as it was greatly appreciated:

- Stan Fossick, Foreperson. We would like to thank Mr. Fossick for his time and excellent leadership in the grand jury room. Mr. Fossick did an exceptional job allowing all members of the Grand Jury to participate and helped guide everyone through the process of serving on the Grand Jury. Mr. Fossick's dedication to Nashville and its citizens is evident in his continued commitment to volunteering to serve as the Foreperson of the Grand Jury. We have truly enjoyed serving with Mr. Fossick and appreciate all he has done.
- Sergeant Patrick Baird, liaison to the Grand Jury. We would like to thank Officer Baird for his thorough case preparation, good humor, and detailed reports. He always came in prepared and when he was unable to present cases himself, he left detailed notes for others who filled in for him so that it was a seamless process.
- Glenn Funk, Attorney General, and his staff. We would like to thank General Funk and his staff who were always available during proceedings to answer questions pertaining to laws and to review case files for more specifics.
- Mel Harders, Chief Court Officer for Judge Wyatt. We would like to thank Mr. Harders for his attentiveness to meeting the needs of the members of the Grand Jury as well as helping provide transportation to our off site visits. We would also like to thank him for the wonderful lunch he took the time to prepare for us; it was very thoughtful and enjoyable to eat a meal at the end of our term as a group with Judge Wyatt and Mr. Harders.
- Judge J. Randall Wyatt, Jr. We, the Grand Jury, would like to thank Judge Wyatt for overseeing this session of the Grand Jury. It was an honor and privilege to serve under him. His thoughtfulness and willingness to spend time with the Grand Jury was appreciated.
- We would also like to thank the numerous other individuals who presented cases or provided education; everyone who presented cases was professional and well prepared.

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Report Submitted By:

Fossick, Stan (Foreperson) ~~Stan Fossick~~

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Corder, Jaclyn Jaclyn Corder

Dixon, Scott Scott Dixon

Gibson, Allison Allison Gibson

Guyton, Kendra Kendra Guyton

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Hudgens, Jerry Jerry Hudgens

Jamison, Rachel ~~Rachel Jamison~~

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Sanders, Lindsey Lindsey Sanders

Schultz, Ronald Ronald Schultz

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Stanfield, Peggy Peggy Stanfield