

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY
FOR APRIL TERM, 1996

to

The Honorable J. Randall Wyatt, Jr.
Judge, Division II, Criminal Court
Davidson County, Tennessee

The Term of Office for this Grand Jury began Monday, April 8, 1996, and concluded on Friday, June 28, 1996. Scheduled meeting days were Monday, Tuesday, and Friday each week.

The Grand Jury heard over 600 cases during the term. All of us would agree that there are no simple solutions to what we know are very complex problems. We have found that our level of awareness has been greatly increased — probably more than we currently know. As our term progressed and we became more comfortable with our role, innocence turned to awareness which led to a greater knowledge of the perils faced by many members of our society — police officers and victims, in particular.

The Grand Jury is very concerned about drug related crimes, repeat offenders, incest and sexual battery, overcrowding in our penal systems and the frustration involved with the “revolving door” — particularly those associated with thefts and assaults.

There were defendants who had several cases to appear before us. This raises the issue of tolerance. Is there a way to remedy this?

The Metro Police Department is to be commended for its persistence in apprehending those who are involved in drug activity. It became very clear to the Grand Jury that as members of our community, we are in danger of illicit activity penetrating our neighborhoods and therefore impacting the quality of life for every citizen in the community. Although a “zero tolerance” was not specifically discussed, it became evident that every member supports sending a strong message to our youth and anyone else involved in buying, selling or in any way supporting such efforts — that such activity will not be tolerated.

We can't offer remedies to the problems, but we can suggest that more funds be appropriated and that pressure be sustained in drug enforcement.

We have all grown during our tenure as members of the Grand Jury.

Although some may have been apprehensive and a little naive, at first, as one member put it, "I have taken off my Rose colored glasses."

We applaud members of the Metropolitan Police Department and appreciate their efforts.

We applaud the District Attorney's office for the professional and thorough manner in which they prepare the cases, their willingness to explain and clarify, and the obvious dedication to their jobs.

Although we cannot mention everyone, there are three persons in particular who worked with us and helped us tremendously — Mr. James Utley, Ms. Sandra Mullins and Ms. Georgia Smith. Their support was invaluable.

We would especially like to thank Judge J. Randall Wyatt Jr. and District Attorney General Torry Johanson for their assistance.

Respectfully submitted,



Adrienne T. Latham, Foreperson

Cynthia W. Bowling Johnnie L. Hester

Alice G. Adkisson Tony H. Lane

Johnnie Mary Clay David C. Keith Jr.

Carson Crocker James B. Caruthers

Patricia Hackney Kimberly Maner

Wade C. Beckwith Johnetta Robertson