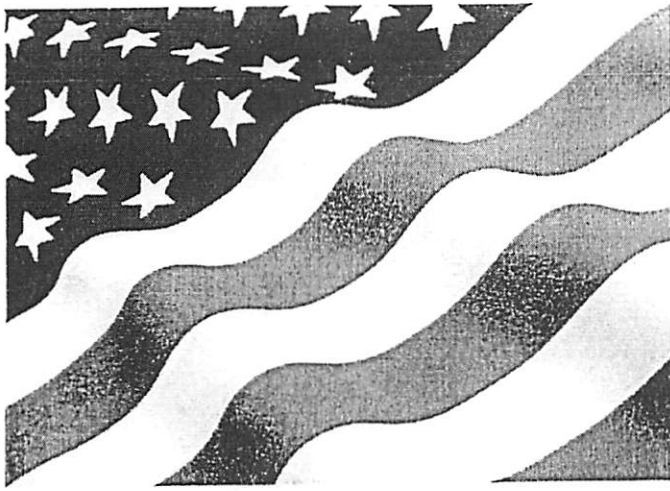


April – June Term 2016

Davidson County  
Grand Jury Final Report

The Honorable Judge Mark Fishburn

June 24, 2016



.....And Liberty and Justice for All.

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## Introduction

We, the members of the Davidson County Grand Jury, Division VI for the term of April through June of 2016 service, under the Honorable Judge Mark Fishburn, duly submit the following reports. These reports are in accordance with the Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedure.

It is with great gratitude and recognition of the Constitution of the United States of America, the order of checks and balances within all three governing bodies, and the service of men and women that we, the jurors, are able to perform this task of service for our county. We do not take the privilege lightly and have concurred that after our service, we have realized within ourselves lie a great storehouse of abilities and compassions that were previously unknown. We have had a self-realization of meaning and purpose to serve our great city and nation.

Thank you for the privilege to serve so that we ourselves might be better citizens.

The Grand Jury

## Preparation

The Davidson County Grand Jury for the April-June 2016 term was prepared for our positions as jurors to determine probable cause with the following professional education:

- Davidson County District Attorney General Glenn Funk addressed the jurors encouraging them to recognize the difference between a bad person and a good kid in trouble. The Grand Jury also appreciates the constant assistance of Assistant District Attorneys Rodney Faulk and Michaela Matthews for their guidance and abilities to explain Tennessee Criminal Law. Asst. DA Jay Martin and Asst. DA Michael Claire Bottoms also aided in our education.
- Davidson County Gangs Unit from Sgt. John Boese and Detective Rob Kelley
- CSA Unit presented by Detective David Slessinger
- Our Kids (Sexual Abuse) by Sue Ross, R.N.
- Davidson County Drug Task Force by Sgt. Gene Donegan
- Davidson County Domestic Violence Unit by Detective Chris Williams
- DUI Unit with Officer Russell Ward
- Child Physical Abuse by Sgt. Michell Hammon and Detective Selene Julia
- Davidson County Warrants Division by Capt. Randall Hickerson

Thank you for the personnel who informed us so that we were prepared to hear and make the necessary indictments.

## **Field Trips**

Our Jury education followed by experiencing following field trips:

- Metropolitan Police Training Academy including the K-9 Unit and the Aviation facility. We learned of the responsibilities of each police cadet including the mental as well as physical aspects.
- Davidson County Juvenile Court and Juvenile Detention Center. Judge Sheila Calloway encouraged the jurors in her new initiative that “There are no bad children, just poor parenting”. We were encouraged to learn of the parenting programs available the “Law Academies” in public schools.
- DC4 which stands for 1. Davidson County, 2. Drug Center, 3. Developing Character, 4. During Confinement. (DC-4). We were again encouraged at the work of Judge Seth Norman and Janet Hobson in their role of drug rehabilitation.
- Comstat which stands for Computer Statistics. We were educated on the work of the many facets of police service including the very specialized work of the Metropolitan Crime Lab headed by Ann Talbot. It is one of the few specialized units on a county basis in the country.

## Cases

We, the Grand Jurors for the Davidson County Criminal Court, Division VI under the jurisdiction of the Honorable Judge Mark Fishburn and the Davidson County District Attorney, heard and made decisions on the following cases:

- 660 cases were presented for indictments
- Of those 660 cases, 655 were returned as True Bills.
- Of those 660 cases, 5 were returned as No True Bills.
- We were also given 3 presentations on which to decide if a crime had been committed.

Despite the diversity of our juror panel, we were able to agree on most of the cases presented. This was in response to our education and the professionalism of those who presented the materials.

## Recommendations

We, the jurors, would like to make the following recommendations:

- We are concerned about the inconsistencies of the Department of Children Services. We feel more concise training and quicker implementation of the decision occur. We are deeply concerned about the diversity of other cultures' standards of conduct concerning their children. We would like for the laws of our land to override any cultural laws.
- We would like to suggest an increase in the number of case workers in the DCS department to increase response time.
- We would like to suggest a system to be in place to educate people on domestic violence before and after the occurrence.
- Concerns about the length of time from the victims' occurrence to the date coming to the grand jury.
- We would like to suggest more officers on the street and on the child sex crimes unit. We understand the funding issue, but with an increase in our population, more funds are generated and suggest some of those funds be used to provide more officers.
- Finally, we would like to suggest a minimum of at least two alternate grand jurors for each day in case of absenteeism of regular jurors.

## Special Thanks

This Grand Jury would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following people who made our service much more enjoyable.

- **Mr. Stan Fossick.** We would not have been able to perform our responsibilities without the dedication, knowledge, and leadership of our jury foreman. His dedication to this community and the jurors is unmatched. He was kind to always bring pastries for us to enjoy. He tirelessly gave of himself to us and to the follow-up paper work. We are grateful for his generosity.
- **Ms. Lori Hooberry.** Lori offered endless assistance in everything we accomplished. She worked tirelessly behind the scene to make the process work smoothly.
- **Ms. Holly Leach.** Ms. Leach worked behind the scene to make sure jurors were notified of any problems and coordinating communications with Judge Mark Fishburn.
- **Detective Patrick Baird.** Officer Baird did an excellent job in presenting cases with the needed information in a way that was informative but not overwhelming. He can be commended for his professionalism and his understanding. We feel having one officer to present cases is a good use of time and money.
- **General Glenn Funk and his staff.** The Jury recognizes the time and effort of each staff member in District Attorney's office. We realize it takes a team effort to do the work of the court system.



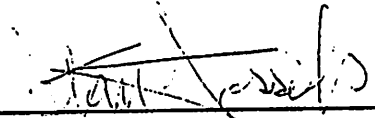
## Closing

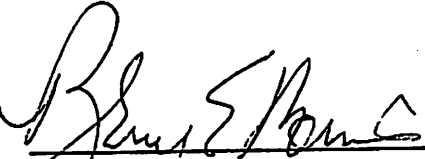
In closing, the members of the Grand Jury feel it is an honor and privilege to fulfill our civic duty as a juror on the Davidson County Grand Jury. The experience of serving and learning was extremely interesting and rewarding. We truly enjoyed the education that was offered both by the professionals and the systems of the judicial branch of government. It has made us proud to be an American citizen. This experience has made each of us walk a little more proud and taller.

Thank you very much,

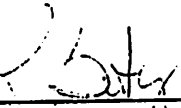
The Grand Jury.

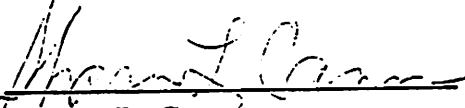
Respectfully submitted on June 24, 2016 by the Davidson County Grand Jury, April through June 2016 Term.

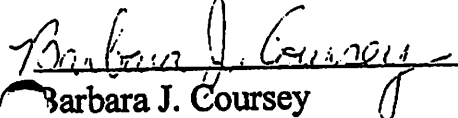
  
Stan Fossick, Jury Foreman

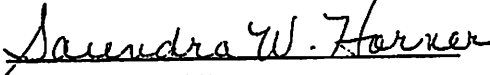
  
Bruce Morris

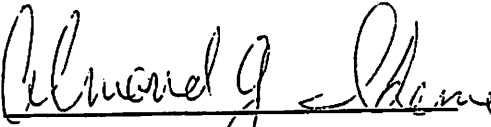
  
Teresa S. Herlston

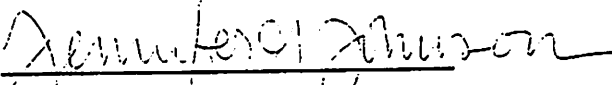
  
Rebecca A. Betty

  
Sharon L. Cannon

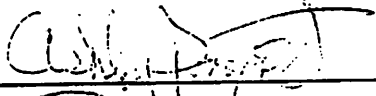
  
Barbara J. Coursey

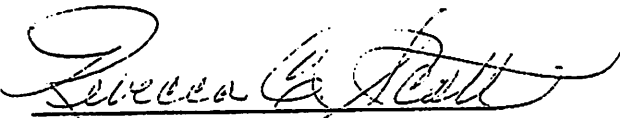
  
Sandra W. Horner

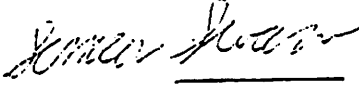
  
Almond J. Iheme


  
Jennifer M. Johnson

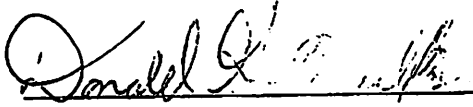
  
Catherine N. O'Rear

  
Ashley Propst

  
Rebecca C. Scott

  
Simeon S. Swann

  
Darlene M. Swift

  
Donald G. Walker