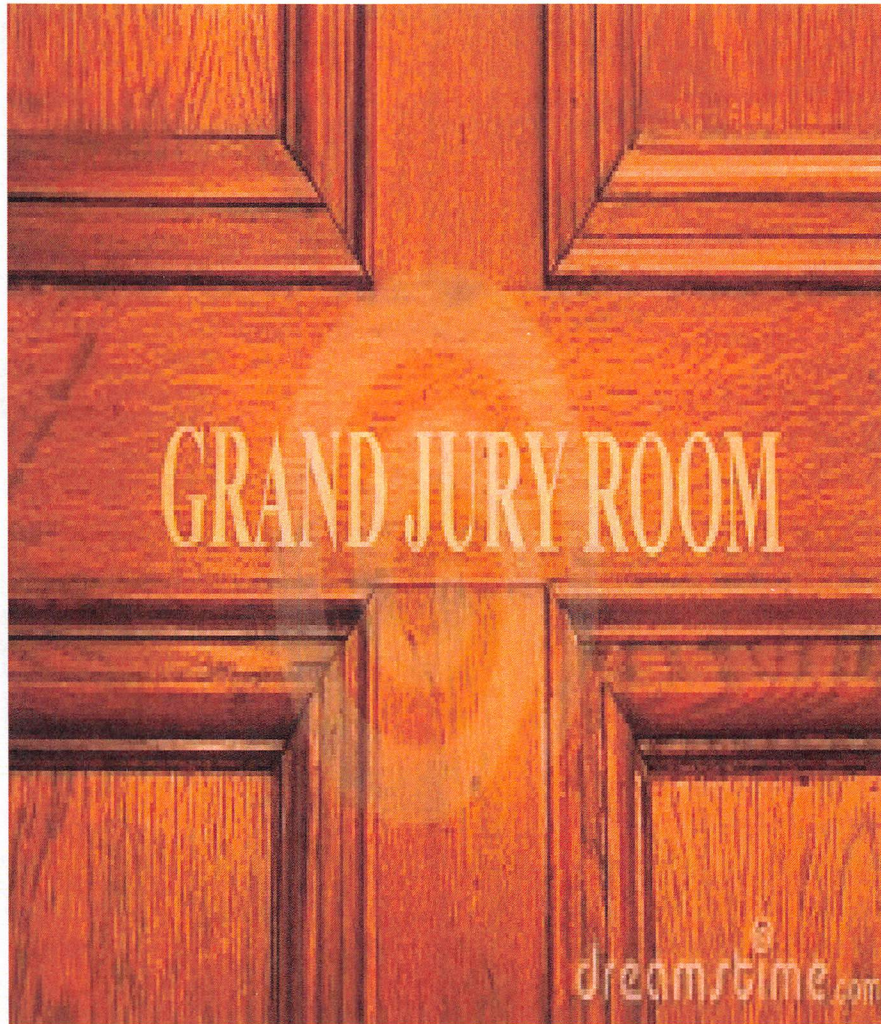


Grand Jury Final Report



The Honorable Judge Cheryl Blackburn
Criminal Court Division III
Davidson County, Tennessee

April 2 – June 28, 2018
Stan Fossick, Foreperson

INTRODUCTION: We, the members of the Davidson County Grand Jury for the term April – June 2018, as commissioned by Judge Cheryl Blackburn, submit this report in summary of our service and experience.

INSTRUCTION: As an introduction to our work on the Grand Jury, we had the opportunity and, we thought, very necessary learning experience, to hear from the DA's office and several members of Metro Police Department give brief presentations of the work they do in their particular units. These included:

- District Attorney General Glenn Funk regarding statics of crime in the county and the overall purpose of the Grand Jury as a body of the Court.
- Assistant District Attorney Rodney Faulk regarding the operation of the Grand Jury
- Leanna Dugan, RN, Our Kids
- Sergeant Gene Donegan, Drug Task Force
- Detectives Jason Door and Nate Ellsworth, Domestic Violence
- Officer Brad Nave, DUI

Near the end of our term, Chief of Police Steve Anderson took time from his busy schedule to visit us and explain the breakdown of types of crimes committed, locations/concentration of crime, types of individuals involved and more. He answered our questions regarding budget, number of officers, training, expansion of programs like the Drug Court.

We also want to thank Mayor David Briley for taking time to visit us. He was relaxed and at ease and made us feel the same way. He gave us a short overview of his plans for the city and then answered any and all questions we asked on various topics, such as our concerns for the young people of Nashville, education, support of the police department and the different sites we visited.

We express our appreciation to these individuals for the information regarding the vastness of the problems they and their colleagues face and all the groundwork that must be done before cases can be brought to file and fulfillment.

CASES: In accordance with the Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedures, we heard and deliberated 771 indictments:

- 771 returned as True Bills
- 1 returned as No True Bill
- 1 Presentment returned to the DA – no prosecution

SITE VISITS:

Training Academy – This was a very worthwhile trip. We were able to observe trainees in the field and observe some of the rigorous training the canine unit goes through. Our officers are very well trained.

Drug Court: the visit to Judge Seth Norman's program at the Drug Court was very eye-opening. We were gratified that our county makes a distinction between drug offenders who are willing to work hard for a second chance and those repeat offenders who commit the offenses solely for profit. We hope other state legislatures will hear of and emulate Judge Norman's program. We also hope that our own state of Tennessee will be able to provide programs like this in other cities like Memphis and Jackson.

Forensics Lab: A fascinating tour of a very valuable and necessary tool for our county and state. Our guide, Loreta Marsh, answered our questions and introduced us to section managers who went into greater detail about fingerprints, blood work and ballistics. Everyone we spoke to was very competent in their field, but we were disappointed that we couldn't spend more time there.

MNPD COMSTAT meeting: The commanders of our different precincts and their support teams in attendance made us feel welcome. What a wealth of knowledge of police work, statistics and probable solutions to problems that plague our areas! From working with youth in schools to community days with officers at parks, we all learned how committed to bettering our communities Metro police officers are. We came away secure in the knowledge that our police force is doing everything in its power to keep us all safe.

PRESENTATION OF INDICTMENTS: The indictments presented to the Grand Jury by police officers and detectives, Loss Prevention officers, Airport Security officers and others were well made and informative and allowed us to make sound pronouncements. Any time we asked for or needed more information or clarification, the presenting officers obtained that information in a timely manner.

RECOGNITION: We would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of the people who helped make our experience on the Davidson County Grand Jury one we won't soon forget:

Stan Fossick: as our Foreperson, Stan shared the sum his years of experience with us, patiently explaining how the Grand Jury works, its purpose, and its importance. He clarified terms for us and added to the overall seriousness of our work. He imparted an ease about serving that helped us stay relaxed yet focused on our duties. It was an honor and pleasure for us to serve with him as our Foreperson.

April Lee: from the selection process to helping with scheduling difficulties, April was a wonder of organization. She handled our conflicting personal time off requests and secured alternate jurors. She also facilitated our compensation, Letters to Employers, parking problems, and site visit transportation. We were happy she was able to join us on some of our site field trips.

Lori Hooberry: Lori is the legal secretary to the Grand Jury Division of the DA's office. She always had our indictment files, list of indictments and other paperwork well prepared and ready for us before we arrived to begin our review of the day's cases. She was always smiling and made us feel welcome.

Officer Sean Richmond: Officer Richmond is a Metro police officer assigned to the DA's office and presenter of indictment information to the Grand Jury. The information was presented in a clear and concise manner. Officer Richmond's professional attitude towards his job was exemplary. He explained terms for us when we asked and provided additional information in a timely manner, usually the same day. He was able to visit to some of the sites with us and was valuable as an additional guide at those facilities.

Officer William Fox: Officer Fox filled in for Officer Richmond on occasion. He presented the indictment information very clearly, concisely and professionally and was just as knowledgeable and helpful in attaining any additional information we asked for. He also was able to clarify many technical terms for us.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF SERVING:

We all have a greater insight into the dedication and commitment to our communities that our police officers – from the Chief down to rookies – have pledged.

We also feel, that as members of the Grand Jury and better informed citizens, we can now work to help our neighborhoods and communities become safer for all of us.

We learned that even as diverse a group as ours can have calm, rational discussions about the facts of a case and come to a consensus of whether or not to send a case forward or hold it pending further investigation or results from tests.

CONCERNS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

We are all concerned about the number of guns in the hands of young people and the reasons they use them. We hope that the education programs the police are working on will be fully funded and managed well so that our youth will know that there are ways for them to further themselves and get a head start to a better life.

We are concerned with the opioid epidemic crisis in our county and state. We would like to see our local and state governments put greater effort into opening more facilities like Judge Norman's Drug Court. We would also like to see our local and state governments do more to hold prescribers of opioids and other prescription pain medications accountable for the type, amount, and frequency

these drugs are being prescribed and work harder to find alternate, non-addictive or less addictive medications.

After visiting our Forensics Lab and learning of the severe backlog of cases, we would urge our state government to make funds available to build more forensic facilities, perhaps in other major cities along Interstate 65 and provide the training to staff the facilities with well-qualified people.

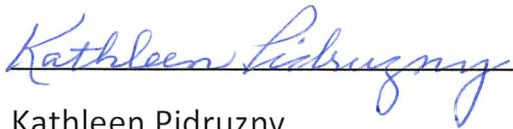
We would recommend more informed planning for site visits during city events such as the CMA awards or other events that block or close off streets and make traveling in and out of the city difficult. We felt rather rushed through the Forensics lab and would like to have spent a more time at the COMSTAT meeting.

Also, sometimes our "reserved for Grand Jury" parking places were not available to our members because people who had business in the same building parked in the reserved spots. We do not know if their cars were indeed towed away because they did not have Grand Jury parking permits visible, but it was very annoying to have to drive around looking for a spot or having to park in the paid lots and then ask for a parking voucher.


Respectfully submitted on June 28, 2018, by the Davidson County Grand Jury,
April – June 2018.




Stan Fossick, Grand Jury Foreperson



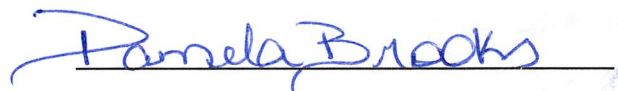
Kathleen Pidruzny



Beverly Morey



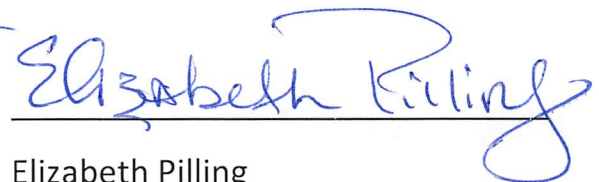
Martin Burns



Pamela Brooks



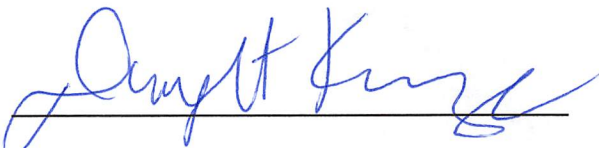
Kimberly Andrews



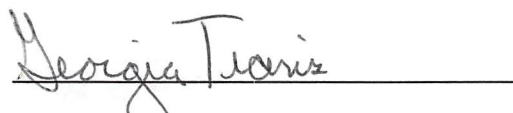
Elizabeth Pilling



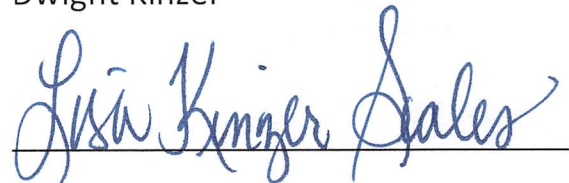
Shaun Watson



Dwight Kinzer



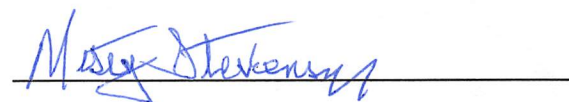
Georgia Travis



Lisa Kinzer-Scales



Sally Todd



Misty Stevenson