

# DAVIDSON COUNTY GRAND JURY

Final Report: April 13, 2022 – June 23, 2022

Honorable Judge Steve Dozier



The Metro Nashville Davidson County Grand Jury for the spring term April 13, 2022, through June 23, 2022, as commissioned by the Honorable Judge Steve Dozier, submit our Final Report as testament of our findings during this period.

## **Davidson County Grand Jury Report**

April 13, 2022 – June 23, 2022

Honorable Judge Steve Dozier

### **Grand Jury Members**

#### **Regular Jurors:**

Patrick Merkel

Renee Beddingfield

Holly McMurtry

Sara McAfee

Sandy Singleton \*\*

Angelana Pintos

Barbara Nicholson

Donald Hill

Melanie Ford

James Qualls

Steve Wilbourn

Paige Green

Mary Dangerfield

Anita Young \*\*

Jesilomida Andolina

Foreperson: Robert Davis

\*\* These jurors became regular when other regular jurors were unable to continue.

Regular Jurors unable to serve the full term:

Andrew Bird

Kirsten Donayre

Alternate Jurors:

Jesse Adam

Judy A. Bass

Michael Carney

Richard V. Curme

John Fleck

Mary I. Gill

Courtney Grant

Deborah Haynes

Patricia Hunt

Antonia Johnson

Julie Leturmy

Evan Ling

Kimberly Maier

Samuel Marshall

James S. Smith

Samantha Stewart

Katie Watkins

## **A grand jury determines whether there is enough evidence to bring criminal charges to trial.**

### **Introduction**

On March 21, 2022, the April 2022 – June 2022 Spring term was sworn in by the Honorable Steve Dozier at the Justice A.A. Birch Courthouse Building. We were told that if we had any questions, we were to contact Wendy Skidmore, the assistant to Judge Dozier.

We were instructed that regular jurors' service would be on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week for 11 weeks for the spring term starting on April 13, 2022. We were to report to the Grand Jury Room on the fourth floor of the Washington Square Building. Parking passes would be provided each day for the courthouse parking garage.

### **Presentations**

During this grand jury term, we met with representatives of Metro Nashville Government across various divisions. These sessions were highly informative and gave us the necessary knowledge to fulfill our responsibilities. We heard from the following presenters:

- District Attorney General Glenn Funk, Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County
- Lieutenant Graham Carroll, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Youth Services Division
- Leanna Dugan, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Our Kids
- Detectives Garcia and Tomes, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Domestic Violence Unit
- Sergeant Mike Hotz, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Overdose Unit
- Sheriff Daron Hall. Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Sheriff's Office (DCSO)

- Assistant District Attorney Laney Heard, Davidson County District Attorney, Vehicular Crimes Team Leader
- Officer Steve Jones, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Criminal Scene Investigation

### **April 13, 2022**

Our first day of service began at 9:00 a.m. Assistant District Attorney Michaela Matthews offered greetings to the group. She explained the role of the grand jury and gave us an overview of what to expect during our term, as well as covering housekeeping matters. We were told that if a juror would be absent or late, they need to email or call Wendy Skidmore as soon as possible so an alternate juror could attend for the day.

Among the first items on the agenda, Foreperson Robert Davis asked for volunteers from among the jurors to serve as sergeant at arms, secretary, assistant secretary, and for members of the final report committee. He explained the responsibilities for each position.

James Qualls volunteered to serve as sergeant at arms, Anita Young offered to serve as secretary, and Jesilomida Andolina volunteered to serve as assistant secretary. Mary Dangerfield, Holly McMurtry, and Melanie Ford agreed to be responsible for the grand jury's final report.

Next, Foreperson Davis gave us an overview of the case list for the first day's session. After hearing a presentation on each case, the grand jurors are given an opportunity to discuss the case and then the foreman will call for a vote. If all twelve of the jurors participating vote yes, that is consider a "true bill." If the vote is 11 to 1, the foreman can also cast a vote, and if the result is 12 to 1, that is also considered a true bill.

Sgt. Mike Fisher was the presenter of all ten cases on our first day. After the voting on those cases was completed, we were dismissed for the day and were told to return the next morning at 8:30 a.m.

### **April 14, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Sgt. Mike Fisher presented fifteen cases for the day's session.

The cases presented were driving under the influence, theft of property, theft of firearms, evading arrest by motor vehicle, burglary-motor vehicle, driving on a revoked license, and criminal trespassing.

Our guest speaker for this day was District Attorney General Glenn Funk.

### **April 20, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. B. Wolters from the Nashville Airport and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the cases for the day's session.

The cases presented were drug paraphernalia, drug offense, weapon-felony possession firearm, driving under the influence, theft of vehicle, criminal impersonation. Theft of property. Prostitution. Credit card fraud. Vandalism. Burglary, assault aggravated. Possession of marijuana. Evading arrest, false report of an emergency. No driver's license or suspended driver's licenses, and sex offender registration violation.

Guest speakers for the day were Lieutenant Graham Carroll, Metropolitan Police Department, Youth Services Division and Leanna Dugan, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Our Kids.

### **April 21, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. We had nineteen cases today, including aggravated assault, DUI, theft, attempted first degree murder, animal cruelty, evading arrest, vehicular homicide, and drug paraphernalia possession.

Speakers were Mike Holt from the overdose unit of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, and Detective Tomes, who is with the domestic violence division. Officer Holt discussed overdose deaths, and new legislation to hold persons accountable if a drug they sell results in a death. He also discussed three drug epidemics in the United States throughout the years. The first occurred after

the Civil War, which resulted from the use of morphine to treat those wounded during the war. The second epidemic occurred during the Vietnam War, where there was ready availability of heroin.

The third epidemic is occurring now and started with the easy access to prescriptions for OxyContin from the 1990s's to 2010. OxyContin was regulated in 2010, after which addicted persons turned to heroin since OxyContin was more difficult to obtain. Heroin, after only the second use, reduces the active portion of the frontal lobe of the brain from 90% to 5%. Now Fentanyl is being sold with heroin and other drugs, and a small amount (the size 3 grains of sand) can be a fatal dose.

Detective Tomes discussed the Domestic Violence Wheel, and that it can take a victim seven tries to get out of a domestic violence situation. Our current domestic violence laws date to the late 1990s.

### **April 27, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. We had nineteen cases today. Fifteen were presented by Sergeant Mike Fisher, and Officer Hodges from the Goodlettsville Police Department presented the remainder of the cases.

There were two speakers today. The first was Assistant District Attorney Laney Heard, the Vehicular Crimes Team Leader. She spoke on vehicular assaults, felony DUI, and vehicular homicides. She indicated that she is currently responsible for fifty vehicular homicide cases, the highest total ever.

The second speaker was Sheriff Daron Hall. He explained the duties of the sheriff's department. Their officers do not actually make arrests, but all individuals who are arrested in Nashville are brought to the Sheriff's Department and his staff book, fingerprint, and house them all. Eighty percent of those arrested are men. Sheriff Hall also discussed their new Behavioral Care Center where some of those who are arrested are diverted if they are found to have mental health issues.

### **April 28, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Four cases were presented by Officers Augustin, S. Cloughin, W. Thorogood, and R. Tidwell with Sgt. Mike Fisher presenting the 16 remaining cases for the day.

The cases reviewed were vehicular homicide-intoxication, assault-aggravated, deadly weapon-reckless, under the influence of alcohol, drug paraphernalia-unlawful use, suspended license, violence with injury or death, no insurance, fear of bodily injury, disorderly conduct, vandalism, home improvement fraud, theft of property/owes the IRS over \$1,000, escape-penal institution-felony, domestic bodily injury, possession w/intent, robbery-aggravated-weapon or object, no contact order violation dv bond condition, theft of firearm handgun, evading arrest by motor vehicle with risk of injury, burglary theft of property, and assault aggravated-strangulation.

The speaker today was Officer Steve Jones, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Crime Scene Investigation.

### **May 4, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Seven cases were presented by Officers A. Childress, M. Windsor, A. Hipp, R. Carrington, J. Shepherd and B. Quigley and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the remaining 20 cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were assault aggravated-deadly weapon, kidnapping, domestic offensive/provocation and domestic bodily injury, reckless endangerment. First degree murder-felony murder and premeditated/intentional, attempted robbery, aggravated robbery, Sexual exploitation of a minor/social media, criminal impersonation. Drug paraphernalia-unlawful use. Vandalism, weapon-dangerous-felony possession of firearm. Possession w/int-controlled-substance-cocaine and marijuana. Child endangerment aggravated child 8 or less or disabled, child neglect, DUI with a child in the car, failure to appear in court. Evading arrest by motor vehicle w/risk of injury. Theft of property and firearm, felony possession of a firearm, and violence with a deadly weapon.



### **May 5, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Officers C. Prill, S. Dahlstrom, J. Jackson, T. Barnes, C. Beery, Sheriff's Office staff member K. Fentress, and Financial Adviser B. Harmon presented 10 cases and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the remaining 21 cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, child abuse eight or less, rape-aggravated aided and abetted, rape-statutory authority figure, sexual battery by an authority figure, solicitation of minor-sexual battery authority figure. Assault aggravated-deadly weapon reckless, serious bodily injury and strangulation, assault of an officer w/bodily injury, assault-domestic fear of bodily injury and offensive/provocation conduct, assault- vehicle. Forgery, motor carriers-safety rules violated. Restless endangerment-motor vehicle as a weapon. Out of service-hazmat or bus, accessory after the fact. Drug paraphernalia-unlawful use. Failure to give information/render aid, immediate notice of accident w/personal injury. Possession w/int-control substance-cocaine, marijuana casual exchange of meth. Vehicular homicide-intoxication. Forgery, theft of property, home improvement fraud. Indecent exposure-guard of staff member, attempted burglary, evading

Note--the charge of sexual battery-aggravated/victim under thirteen was added to one case at the suggestion of the presenting officer.

### **May 11, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Detectives Edward Conrads, R. Heymann, and K. Rothwell and Officers R. Longden, K. Coleman, C. Armstrong, and C. Tomes presented nine cases and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the remaining 21 cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, Identity theft, rape of child, sexual exploitation of a minor-esp. aggravated. Rape-without consent, rape of a child-aggravated, sexual battery-aggravated. Community supervision violation by felon, sex offender reg violation, Assault aggravated-deadly weapon-reckless assault vehicular, false report-to obstruct and hinder, traffic-open container violation, vehicular homicide-intoxication, weapon-possession of handgun while under the influence, drug paraphernalia-unlawful use, possession with intent – control substance-

cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, weapon-dangerous felony-possession w/prior conviction, Possession-firearm drug offense. Attempted first degree murder-premeditated intentional. Child abuse-aggravated, child neglect-disabled, rape without consent. Driving under the influence, license suspended, possession of casual exchange-control substance. Felony-possession firearm violence deadly weapon, contraband in penal institution, intoxication, drug paraphernalia-unlawful use. Disorderly conduct stalking, assault domestic offense/provocative conduct, domestic bodily injury, deadly weapon, evading arrest. Attempted first degree murder premeditated intended w/weapon, burglar-aggravated, resisting stop, frisk halt arrest or search.

### **May 12, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Detective K. Wiles and Officers C. Valdez, J. Shepherd, J. Brown, J. Holt, and P. McLaughlin presented seven cases and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the remaining 21 cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, Reckless endangerment-motor vehicle weapon, open container violation, vehicular homicide-intoxication, theft or merchandise and property lottery tickets. Services and vehicle, rape-without consent, rape of a child and aggravated sexual battery, sex offender registration. Animal-cruelty. Robbery aggravated weapon or object, carjacking, driving under the influence/no driver's license, evading arrest by motor vehicle, striking an unattended vehicle, resisting stop frisk halt arrest or search. Order or protection/restraining order violation attempted first degree murder-premeditated intentional. Vandalism. Drug paraphernalia, assault aggravated-strangulation, deadly weapon, domestic bodily injury, offense, or provocative contact. Felony-possession firearm violence deadly weapon and drug offense, weapon dangerous felony possession w/intent-control substance-fentanyl or derivative, marijuana, meth.

### **May 18, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Sgt. Mike Fisher presented cases for the day's session, along with L. Burton, H. Malone, H. Fikes, M. Adkins, and C. Martin.

The cases reviewed were aggravated assault, aggravated rape, solicitation of premeditated murder, sexual exploitation of a minor, evading arrest, worthless checks, possession of drugs, felony possession of firearms, and DUI.

### **May 19, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Presenting cases were Officers Klarer, Cuthbertson, Mullen, R. Ward, B. Pope, and A. House, Sgt. Fisher, and a representative from Ed's Supply Company.

Cases today included domestic assaults, prostitution, DUIs, drug possession, vehicular homicides, thefts of property, murder, burglary, animal cruelty, and vandalism.

### **May 25, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Officers Z. Scannell, R. Smith, H. Doty, and A. Campbell, and Detective A. Reese presented ten cases and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the remaining cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, assault, aggravated-deadly weapon-intent to kill, first degree murder-felony murder-premeditated/intentional kidnapping-especial aggravated-deadly, weapon/object robbery-especial aggravated, theft of vehicle, assault with vehicle, felony-possession-firearm, domestic bodily injury, domestic serious bodily injury, aggravated-strangulation with intent to kill, evading arrest by motor vehicle, robbery aggravated weapon, carjacking, criminal trespassing, possession with intent, driving under the influence, traffic-open container violation, vandalism, harassment threats, prostitution patronizing with minor, restraining order violation, violation with injury or death, burglary, drug paraphernalia substance-marijuana, aggravated child abuse, endangerment and neglect, weapon-possession of handgun while under the influence

### **May 26, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the cases for the day's session along with Officers Manivong and M. Price, and Mr. J. Maldonado from Home Depot.

Today's cases were assaults, aggravated assaults, pre-meditated murder, drug possessions, domestic assaults, theft of property, felon in possession of firearm.

### **June 1, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Officers J. Asbell, R. Smith, B. Otto and M. Intrieri, and Detective B. McGrath presented seven cases. Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the rest of the cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, Custodial interference, no contact order violation- bond condition. Burglary, drug paraphernalia, possession control substance, cocaine, heroin. Theft of property, vehicle, forgery, firearm. Assault aggravated- strangulation, deadly weapon, serious bodily injury. Domestic offense. Sexual battery, rape of a child, trafficking for a commercial sex act. Driving on revoked driver license, reckless endangerment-motor vehicle-weapon. Resisting stop frisk halt arrest or search. Harassment-frighten, threats. Traffic leaving scene of accident.

### **June 2, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Officer J. Daniel and Detectives K. Dumond, E. Conrads, M. Flores, C. Beery, S. England, and J. Petty presented six cases and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the rest of the cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, attempted rape of a child, rape-force, statutory rape-authority figure, rape without consent, sexual battery-force, solicitation of a minor-induce sexual activity by a minor. Drug paraphernalia unlawful. Vehicle homicide-aggravated & intoxicated. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Evading arrest by motor vehicle. Possession with intent-controlled substance-

cocaine, marijuana, meth, & fentanyl. Weapon-dangerous felony-possession-drug offense. Fear of bodily injury, sexual battery, prostitution-patronizing with minor. Felony vandalism, burglary, theft of vehicle and merchandise. Indecent exposure, reckless endangerment, and trafficking for a commercial sex act. Driving under the influence and revoked license. Assault domestic bodily injury, aggravated-deadly weapon-strangulation. Attempted first degree murder-premeditated with intent.

### **June 8, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Detectives B. Wolters, D. Moore, B. Cayce and A. Thompson and Officers R. Burger, J. Breedlove, Sgt. S. Perez and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were possession with intent-control substance-marijuana, cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, meth. Weapon-dangerous felon-possession with prior convictions. Delivery-controlled substance. Second degree murder-fentanyl, reckless driving, driving while under the influence, driving on revoked driver's license. Theft of motor vehicle, property. Burglary-motor vehicle. Criminal impersonation, trespass. Vandalism. Credit card fraud. Resisting arrest, stop, frisk, halt, or search. Counterfeit logo-use or sell. Money laundering, tax-attempt to evade arrest, tax-falsification, or collection. Public intoxication. Order of protection/restraining order violation. Rape of a child, sexual battery assault. Deadly weapon assault domestic bodily injury.

### June 9, 2022

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Officer C. Cote, Special Agent TBI J. Boyd, L. Henderson, Detective J. Newsom with Vanderbilt Security and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, drug paraphernalia-unlawful use. Money laundering, possession with intent -controlled substance-fentanyl or derivative, heroin, meth, cocaine, marijuana. Weapon-felon -possession. Credit card fraudulent Theft of property, theft of merchandise. First degree murder-felony murder premeditated intentional, attempted first degree murder- premeditated intentional, evidence tampering, second degree murder-knowing. Burglary, theft of property, vandalism. Child abuse aggravated. Assault aggravated-deadly weapon, domestic offensive/provocative conduct, assault vehicle, assault officer/responder-aggravated-deadly. Trafficking for a commercial sex act. Evading arrest by motor vehicle. child endangerment-aggravated less-disabled, child neglect- aggravated. DUI with a child, and traffic-open container violation. No contact order violation. Attempted robbery-aggravated disorderly conduct. Public intoxication. Resisting stop-frisk, halt, arrest, or search. Indecent exposure-guard or staff member. Animal cruelty-aggravated veterinary medicine, unlicensed practice.

### June 15, 2022

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Detectives C. Davis, K. T. Pinho, A. Daniel, J. Breedlove, T. Wahl from the Target Asset Investigating Team, and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, assault domestic bodily injury, aggravated-deadly weapon, strangulation. Sex offender registration violation, prostitution. Weapon-felony possession firearm while under the influence. Theft of merchandise, firearm, property. Vandalism. Trafficking for a commercial sex act. Robbery aggravated weapon. Burglary aggravated. Evading arrest, resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest, or search. Interference with emergency call. No contact order violation. Attempted first degree murder-premeditated/intentional kidnapping-especially aggravated deadly weapon/object. Drug paraphernalia-possession with intent-

controlled substance, cocaine, fentanyl, or derivative, heroin, meth, and marijuana.

### **June 16, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Officer D. Davidson, Detective B. Zullo, and Sgt. Mike Fisher presented the 35 cases for today's session.

The cases reviewed were, child endangerment and neglect-aggravated 8 or less or disabled. Vehicular homicide-reckless conduct. Sexual battery without consent, sexual battery by an authority figure, sex offender registration violation. Sex exploitation of a minor-especial-aggravation, rape-statutory aggravated by an authority figure. Assault aggravated-strangulation- false imprisonment-deadly weapon. Attempted robbery. False imprisonment. Vandalism or more, burglary-motor vehicle, theft of vehicle and property. Evading arrest by motor vehicle with risk of injury. Driving on suspended license, driving on revoked driver license, driving under the influence. Drug paraphernalia. Possession of casual exchange of meth, control substance. Evidence tampering. Resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest, or search. Traffic-open container violation. Reckless endangerment-deadly weapon, handgun. Assault domestic bodily injury, order of protection/restraining order violation.

### **June 22, 2022**

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Sgt. Mike Fisher presented cases for the day's session, along with Lowe's representative D. Swehla, Officers D. Zoccola, J. Stanfield, M. Meiss, M. Flores, P. Klarer, J. Jackson, M. Adkins. We heard 39 cases today.

The cases reviewed were possession of drug paraphernalia, Aggravated assault premeditated murder. Possession with intent, controlled substance, burglary, attempted 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder. Stalking, felons in possession of a firearm. Statutory rape. Vehicular assault. Child endangerment. Resisting arrest. Theft of property and merchandise. Aggravated kidnapping, strangulation. Domestic assault, sexual exploitation of a minor, DUI's. Robbery, evading arrest, resisting stop, frisk and halt, criminal trespass. Vehicular assault, and contraband in jail.

June 23, 2022

We began hearing cases at 8:30 a.m. Officers R. Ward, D. Smyth, Goodlettsville Police and M. Filter, Detectives B. Wolter and M. Malone, and Sgt. N. Ellsworth presented the cases for the day's session.

The cases reviewed were, financial resp. violation with injury or death. Immediate notice of accident-failure to comply. Leaving scene of the accident involving death. Reckless endangerment-motor vehicle, vehicular homicide-intoxications. Theft of property. Weapon-dangerous felony-employ firearm with intent. Reckless driving, assault aggravated-deadly weapon. Assault domestic fear of bodily injury and strangulation. Evading arrest by motor vehicle, driving on revoked driver's license and under the influence. Robbery-aggravated weapon or object, robbery-carjacking. Traffic-misuse of evidence or vehicle registration. Reckless endangerment-occupied habitation. Weapon-possession firearm. Burglary-aggravated-motor vehicle. Animal cruelty. Credit card fraud. Identity theft. Sex offender registration, violation. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Drug paraphernalia. Possession with intent -control substance-meth, fentanyl or derivative, hashish, marijuana. Vandalism and forgery. Kidnapping especially aggravated deadly weapon motor vehicle. Child endangerment, order of protection/restraining order violation.



## Thoughts about our experiences as grand jurors

**Melanie Ford:** Serving on the grand jury was a very positive and meaningful experience for me. It was one of the most interesting things I have ever done. I gained so much knowledge about crime and law enforcement in Nashville. At times I felt like I was learning as much as I would in a college course. I would recommend that anyone who has an opportunity to serve on the grand jury should do so.

**Barbara Nicholson:** I am very proud of serving on the Grand Jury. It's hard to say you "enjoy" hearing these cases, but I did learn a lot and have such respect for all those who work so tirelessly, from the officers and DA's office, the Sheriff's department and the Judiciary. Officer Mike Fisher did an excellent job in his presentations, and we appreciated how articulate, prepared and professional he was. Judge Dozier had us come back to the court after our last day and it was very interesting to see the last case he had before lunch break...it made us realize how important our contribution is, and how many people have tried to give each defendant a fair hearing. I thought we were treated with respect, and the environment was very pleasant (except for extremely hot days when the air conditioning was not working well). We also needed a working microphone for some of the speakers. It would have been nice to have bottled water there in the fridge, but most of us were able to bring our own water. If asked to serve again, I would say "Yes!"

**Patrick Merkel:** We heard several cases that were difficult to hear and that had an emotional toll on the jurors due to the nature of the alleged crimes. We were not allowed to discuss these with our spouses. On the day we were selected, Ms. Skidmore mentioned resources available during the term. It would be helpful if, before or after an emotionally difficult day, the jurors were reminded of the resources available to help process what we hear.

**Holly McMurtry:** I learned a lot and met some great people. It was a great learning experience for me. I enjoyed Sgt Mike Fisher each day and the effort he put into presenting the cases. Hopefully they can get a microphone that works better for those that sit in the back.

**Renee Beddingfield:** it was a wonderful experience, and I learned a lot!

**Mary Dangerfield:** It was an honor to serve on the Davidson County Grand Jury to see how our justice system works. It is something everyone should experience.

### **Recommendations**

Jurors need to know that if a case includes multiple charges, they can vote on those charges separately, with the option of returning a true bill on one charge but not another. The same is true if a case has multiple defendants.

Some of the individuals presenting cases were better prepared than others. Those presenting cases should review the indictments before presenting the case to the grand jury, and if there are charges, they cannot explain, they should indicate that to the appropriate staff so someone else can be made available to address the remaining charges.

Some improvements in the case list provided to the jurors would be helpful. This includes:

- If there are multiple defendants, a note to indicate which charges relate to which defendant.
- If there are multiple counts of the same charge, for the number of counts to be shown.
- For all the charges that appear on the indictment sheets to appear on the case list.

A new microphone is needed in the grand jury room. The microphone rarely worked and those in the back of the room could not hear without asking the presenter to speak up.

The temperature in the jury room was a bit warm as the weather became hotter outside.

An additional desired speaker is a representative from the K9 unit of the police department.

Provide a handout with written details and directions regarding how to get to the room where the grand jury meets. Provide handout to all regular jurors as well as to alternate jurors as needed. We receive a lot of information on the jury duty selection day and it can be challenging to remember it all. Having written documentation to refer to on our first day (with address, instructions to navigate the building) would be helpful.

Provide timely work excuses for jury duty, preferably at least 2 weeks in advance, in addition to advance notification of any jury duty commitment extensions. It is an honor to fulfill our civic duty but being able to provide sufficient advance notification to our employers about when we will be absent (so they can get additional coverage) would be helpful in regard to also fulfilling our responsibilities to our employers.

**The Grand Jury of the 2022 spring term would like to thank all the speakers, presenters, officers, staff, and the participants of our term.**

**Lori Hoobery** – Legal secretary of the Grand Jury Division of the District Attorney's office. Ms. Hoobery did an excellent job of keeping the grand jury and guests comfortable every day. The indictments and other documents were organized and prepared before the start of each day.

**Tommy Numan** – Assistant to Judge Dozier. Mr. Numan visited the grand jury room daily to report on those jurors that would not be present and share the names of alternates appearing for the day. He made sure we had enough jurors to start our daily duty.

**Sgt. Mike Fisher** - Metro police officer assigned to the DA's office. Sgt. Fisher presented the majority of the cases throughout our term. He has an enthusiastic approach combined with effective communication skills. Sgt. Fisher presented the cases clearly and professionally and proved to be a valuable asset throughout our term.

**Wendy Skidmore** – Administrative Assistant to Judge Dozier. The grand jury thanks you for all your professional help in making our term a success. Each day at least twelve jurors were present on time to start our day.

**Assistant District Attorneys** – Thanks for your assistance in answering our questions and providing clarification of legal terms and charges.

**Judge Dozier** – Thank you (and Chef Mel) for a great meal on our last day and for taking the time to speak with us and show appreciation for our service.

**APRIL – JUNE TERM GRAND JURY**

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Patrick Merkel

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Renee Beddingfield

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Holly McMurtry

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Paige Green

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Angelana Pintos

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Barbara Nicholson

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Donald Hill

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Melanie Ford

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James Qualls

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Steve Wilbourn

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Mary Dangerfield

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Anita Young

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Jesilomida Andolina

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Sandy Singleton

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Robert Davis – Foreman

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Sara McAfee