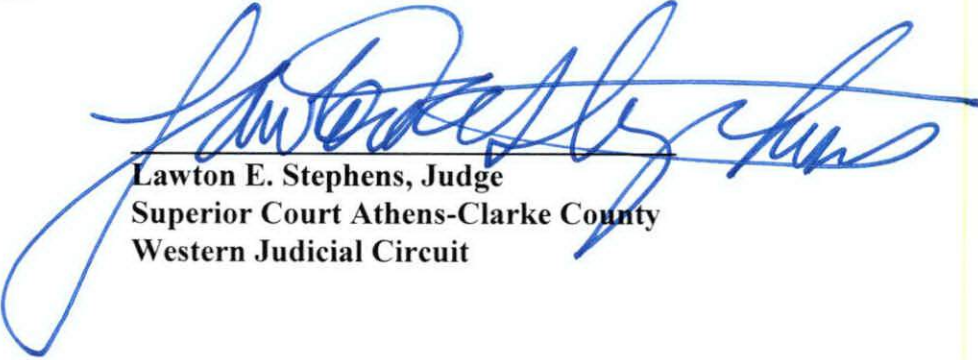


**GEORGIA**

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY**

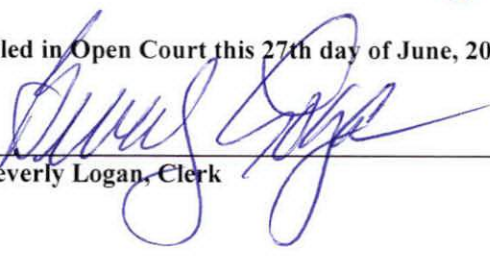
**It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2017 April Term of the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County be entered on the minutes of the Court and published at the expense of the County in the official organ of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court Athens-Clarke County,**

**This 27th day of June, 2017.**



**Lawton E. Stephens, Judge  
Superior Court Athens-Clarke County  
Western Judicial Circuit**

**Filed in Open Court this 27th day of June, 2017.**



**Beverly Logan, Clerk**

**General Presentments and Reports  
Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury  
April Term 2017**

On Monday April 10, 2017, 25 jurors, including two alternates, were selected to serve as members of the Grand Jury for the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court for the April 2017 term. Judge H. Patrick Haggard administered the oath to the jurors and charged them with their responsibilities.

The jurors elected Turley Howard as Foreperson, Amanda Rae Johnson as Assistant Foreperson, James Hussey as Secretary, and Tammy Marie Gray as Assistant Secretary.

The remaining jurors were Christene Allen, Michael David Bolding, Judy Lynn Cagle, Mireya Fambro, Janine Faucher, Linda Diane Gill, Kellen Khoa Her, Sayfonh Heuangvilay, Amela Kadic, Alyssa Zanone Kreutz, Chris J. Liken, Zachary A. McKinney, Juliana Merritt Melancon, Agustin Morales, Jr., Asia Raquella Smith, Courtney Cagle Taylor, Benjamin Wade Williams, David Allen Williams and Elizabeth Rodgers Woods. Joyce Yoon Reilly and Martin Atwood Smeltzer served as alternates.

**I. Criminal Functions**

In the capacity of the criminal functions of the Grand Jury, 187 cases were brought before the Grand Jury for indictment. Of these cases, 186 were returned as True Bills, 0 was returned as No Bill and 1 was returned as a Split Bill.

**II. Civil Functions**

The April 2017 Grand Jury undertook two civil functions:

A. Review the revenue and expenditure statements of the Probate Court, Clerk of Superior Court, Athens-Clarke County Finance Department, and Office of the Sheriff (O.C.G.A. § 36-1-7).

**Finance Committee Report:**

As required by O.C.G.A 36-1-7, we, the Grand Jury impaneled in April 2017, formed a committee to review the financial statements from the Athens-Clarke County Finance Department/Treasurer, Probate Court, Clerk of the Courts and Office of the Sheriff.

The Finance Department, Probate Court, Clerk of the Courts, and Office of the Sheriff's typical practice is to present the Grand Jury with the summary and detail reports at the start of the term of service. However, on the occasion of the impaneling of this Grand Jury, only the offices of the Probate Court, the Clerk of Courts and the Office of the Sheriff presented summary reports only of department generated funds and expenditures.

Thus, the Grand Jury requested that the county finance director, David Boyd, and county treasurer, Katherine Poss, present a summary of the county's current financial situation and answer questions regarding the reporting process and financial oversight of the Athens-Clarke County Juvenile Court. Interest in the financial oversight of the Juvenile Court stemmed from the 2015 arrest of former Juvenile Court Clerk Sherri Lynn Price.

James Hussey, J. Merritt Melancon, Janine Faucher and Turley Howard served on the finance committee. The committee makes the following findings and recommendations, which the Grand Jury hereby adopts.

**1. Findings**

a. The amounts listed in the statements presented to the Grand Jury are mathematically accurate.

b. The committee concludes that the Revenue and Expenditures Returns for the Athens-Clarke

County Finance Department/Treasurer, Probate Court, Clerk of the Courts, and the Sheriff's Office for the period of January 2017 to April 2017 accurately represents the revenues and expenditures of the departments, to the best of our knowledge.

**2. Recommendations:**

a. **General:** The Grand Jury recommends that a standard practice be agreed upon among the District Attorney, Finance Department, Probate Court, Clerk of the Courts, and Sheriff's Office to provide summary and detail financial statements and reports so as to fulfill the required mandates to report and also establish and maintain continuity in reporting.

b. **Specific:** The Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The Finance Director make himself available to the Grand Jury to review the full report with the Financial Committee as a matter of common practice.

2. The Grand Jury recommends that the next Grand Jury requests full reports and summaries from each department if only the summary reports are initially presented.

3. The Grand Jury recommends that the offices of the Probate Court, Clerk of Courts and the Sheriff's office prepare consistent reports that are more easily understood by the members of the Grand Jury.

4. The Grand Jury recommends that financial presentations and reports be given to the grand jury after they have appointed a finance committee – not on the day of impaneling.

**B. Jail Inspection**

On May 30, 2017, members of the Grand Jury toured the Clarke County Jail as provided for in OCGA 15-12-71.

Chief Jailer Tommy York provided an overview of the jail's operations, plans to expand some of the jail's housing pods into the old jail and plans to build a training center there.

**Findings**

1. During a tour of the jail the committee was generally impressed by the clean, orderly condition of the jail and the generally calm atmosphere.

2. The committee was also impressed by the training and professional demeanor of the jail staff.

**III. Acknowledgements**

We thank District Attorney Ken Mauldin for his guidance and support during our term. We thank the Assistant District Attorneys and the Interns for their patience, explanation of the law, and professionalism as they presented the cases.


We thank the Bailiffs for setting the Jury room, providing coffee and making sure we have what we needed for the day.

Finally, we offer our sincerest appreciation to the Athens-Clarke County Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies for their testimony, as well as for their dedication and hard work for all the citizens of Athens-Clarke County.

**IV. Closing Remarks**

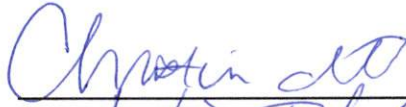
Grand Jury appointment is a civic duty for which the members of this jury felt honored to perform. Our appreciation is extended to both the court and to the larger community for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted, this 27th of June 2017

  
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Turley Howard, Foreperson

GRAND JUROR'S SIGNATURES:

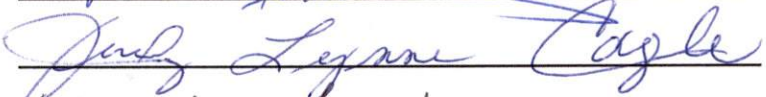
Christene Allen



Michael David Bolding



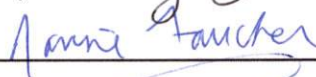
Judy Lynn Cagle



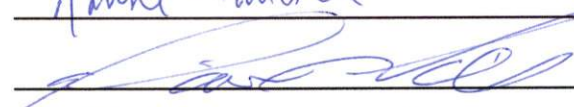
Mireya Fambro



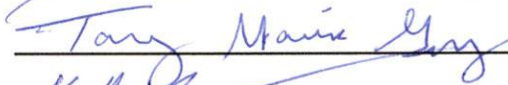
Janine Faucher



Linda Diane Gill



Tammy Marie Gray




Kellen Khoa Her



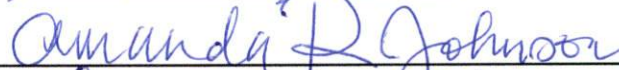
Sayfonh Heuangvilay



James Hussey



Amanda Rae Johnson



Amela Kadic



Alyssa Zanone Kreutz



Chris J. Liken



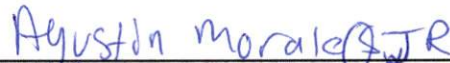
Zachary A. McKinney



Juliana Merritt Melancon

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Agustin Morales



Asia Raquelle Smith



Courtney Cagle Taylor



Benjamin Wade Williams



David Allen Williams



Elizabeth Rodgers Woods



Joyce Yoon Reilly

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Martin Atwood Smeltzer

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