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**GEORGIA**

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY**

Clerk Superior Court, County, Ga.  
Ek 02023 Pg 2728-2731  
Penalty:

It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2023 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 Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court Athens-Clarke County,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 6th day of July, 2023.

Lisa Lott, Judge  
Superior Court Athens-Clarke County  
Western Judicial Circuit

Filed in Open Court this 6th day of July, 2023.

Elisa Zarate, Clerk of Superior Court

## General Presentment and Reports

### Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury

#### Second Quarter Session 2023

On the 11th day of April 2023 the Honorable Judge Lisa Lott selected a jury of 25 people including two alternates to the grand jury. Judge Lisa Lott then administered the oath and charged them with their responsibilities.

The jurors then elected Allison Sears as Foreperson, Joshua Sweat as Assistant Foreperson, Rachel Watkins as Secretary, and Kallie Brunson as Assistant Secretary.

The remaining jurors were Josephine Wingfield, Jenna Elizabeth Andrews-Swann, Benial Hailey, Jr., Maggie Grace Miller, Tyler Brown, David George Whitfield, Jr., Wintre Serval Howard, Raul F. Nima Alcedo, Cindy Marie Allen, Cecilia McGregor, James E. Gaffney, Christopher Keith Neace, Laura Kellum Rhicard, Keshundra Katrice Watkins, Lisa Dianne Childress, Amy Lynn Thompson, Kaori Sakamoto, Emily Wallace Saye, and Timothy Reece Cain. Alternate jurors were Carl R. Satterfield and Laurie A. Fox.

#### **Criminal Functions**

The Grand Jury was presented with 83 cases. Of these cases 80 were True Bills, 1 was a No Bill, and 2 were returned as Split Bills. This activity took place April 4th, April 25th, May 9th, May 16th, May 23rd, May 30th, June 6th, June 13th, June 20th, and June 27th.

#### **Civil Functions**

N/A for this jury session

#### **General Observations**

While this jury knows how understaffed the current office of the District Attorney is, we want to commend the office of the District Attorney and the officers and witnesses, and thank them for their efforts to maintain the law in Athens Clarke County. This jury was able to make quick informed decisions thanks to prepared and present witnesses from the GBI, ACCPD, Attorney General's Office and office of the District Attorney.

## **Closing Remarks**

We ask that the court raise the compensation rate grand jurors are given from \$35 a day to \$50 a day. This increase would help those who do not get paid by their employers for time missed. It has been proposed by this jury that there be higher compensation for those holding foreperson, secretary, assistant foreperson and assistant secretary roles; as well as a pool for salaried jurors to donate to to offset hourly jurors time at work missed.

We also suggest that the court provide the foreperson, assistant foreperson, secretary and assistant secretary with a document outlining their duties and responsibilities during the grand jury session in addition to the juror handbook. These documents should include a guideline for this document as well as a schedule of days in session. Furthermore, a similar document should be given to the presenting attorney with guidelines on the role and how to read indictments and ask open ended, non-leading questions of witnesses. It has also been proposed to have a guideline for how the jury room should be left when not in use.

We also suggest a mock case be read and orientation be done presenting the juror handbook and foreperson/secretary documents in preparation for the first day in session. This jury would have felt much more prepared to perform our civil duty had these steps been taken post jury selection. We propose that this happen the same day as jury selection and prior to allowing the jury to select foreperson, secretary, assistant foreperson and assistant secretary.



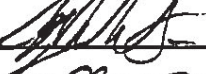



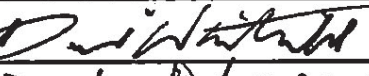







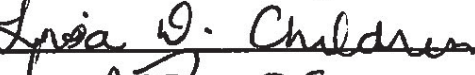



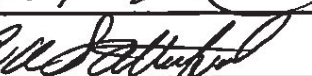



**Allison Sears, Foreperson**



**Rachel Watkins, Secretary**

**Spring 2023 Jurors**

Allison Sears, Foreperson	
Rachel Watkins, Secretary	
Joshua Sweat, Asst. Foreperson	
Kallie Brunson, Asst. Secretary	
Josephine Wingfield	
Jenna Elizabeth Andrews-Swann	
Benial Hailey, Jr.	
Maggie Grace Miller	
Tyler Brown	
David George Whitfield, Jr.	
Wintre Servel Howard	
Raul F. Nima Alcedo	
Cindy Marie Allen	
Cecilia McGregor	
James E. Gaffney	
Christopher Keith Neace	
Laura Kellum Rhicard	
Keshundra Katrice Watkins	
Lisa Dianne Childress	
Amy Lynn Thompson	
Kaori Sakamoto	
Emily Wallace Saye	
<sup>Reese</sup> Timothy-Reece Cain	
Carl R. Satterfield, Alternate	
Laurie A. Fox, Alternate	

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