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Clerk Superior Court, County, Ga.
Bk 02023 Pg 1420-1423

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Penalty:

It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2023 January 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 Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court Athens-Clarke County,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 4th day of April, 2023.

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

Filed in Open Court this 4th day of April, 2023.

Beverly Logan, Clerk of Superior Court

General Presentment and Reports

Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury

First Quarter Session 2023

On the ninth day of January 2023 the Honorable Judge Lawton Stephens selected a jury of 25 people including two alternates to the grand jury. Judge Lawton Stephens then administered the oath and charged them with their responsibilities.

The jurors then elected Deborah Lynn Wilson as Foreperson, Melissa Crowe as Assistant Foreperson, Danielle Celeste Martin as Secretary, and Ada Kathryn Clouden as Assistant Secretary.

The remaining Jurors were Emily Aguilar-Pedraza, Matthew Bengochea, Jocilyn Boyd, Della Mae Clark, Kristina Clark, Vickie Cofer, LeQuincy Cooper, Zachary Crew, Mauricio Ferrer-Comparan, Ansley Guntermann, Gloria Hill, Emory Johnson Jr., Nancy R. Johnson, David Harrison Mitchell, Jr., Maria Ortega, Marianne Palmer, Jessica Sutherland, Tina Teasley, and Denzel Thomas. Alternate jurors were Darrell Appling and Charles Wesley Sorrells. Charles Wesley was excused by Assistant District Attorney Page Otwell for medical reasons on January 18, 2023.

Criminal Functions

The Grand Jury was presented with 78 cases. Of these cases 75 were True Bills, 0 were No Bills, and 3 were returned as split bills. This activity took place January 10th, January 31st, February 7th, February 28th, ~~March 7th~~, March 21st, March 28th, and April 4th. Unfortunately, on January the 24th we had to cancel due to having seven jurors call out and having five jurors that were a no call/no show. This incident was regrettable to all.

Civil Functions

We were presented with a document from Beverly Logan, Clerk of Court regarding the destruction of copies of voter ballots from past elections. It was discussed and voted to approve the destruction of the ballots according to the Board of Election's standard procedures.

Additionally, we were presented with a Board of Equalization document from Beverly Logan, Clerk of Court which stated due to the Department of Revenue's rules on education Patricia M. Murray would need to complete specific training in the calendar year. We were notified she has completed such training and after discussion we feel Patricia M. Murray should be reappointed as Clarke County Board of Equalization and be reappointed to fulfill her unexpired term.

Acknowledgements

The Grand Jury would like to express our thanks to Assistant District Attorney Page Otwell and all the Assistant District Attorneys for their help and support. We would also like to thank the officers and social workers for their testimonies and their patience answering our questions. Finally, our thanks to the bailiffs who made sure the room was set up and that we had everything we needed.

General Observations

As previously stated by other members of the grand jury we would like to suggest that the witness chair provided for officers be a chair without arms. Most officers came in full uniform, and it was difficult for them to sit comfortably in full gear and therefore some even stood throughout their presentation of the case.

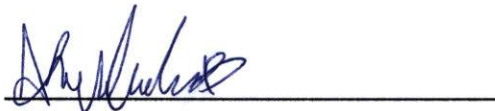
Closing Remarks

In the democratic process, our call to duty as a juror is one of the most important civic roles we will play outside of the voting booth. To many, this has been the first time to experience the right of due process for those accused of a crime. While hearing the presentation by officers and others, we realize how much they sacrifice on a daily basis, and we gained an understanding of how emotionally draining some cases may be on them.

We would also ask that the state consider raising the compensation rate jurors are given from \$35 a session to \$50 a session. This increase would help those who do not get paid by their employers for time missed.



Deborah L. Wilson, Foreperson



Ada Kathryn Clouden, Assistant Secretary

CLARKE COUNTY GRAND JURY 1ST QUARTER 2023

JURORS NAME	JURORS SIGNATURE
Aguilar-Pedraza, Emily	<i>Emily Aguilar</i>
Bengochea, Matthew Adam	<i>M Bengochea</i>
Boyd, Jocilyn Vialnea	<i>Jocilyn Boyd</i>
Clark, Della Mae <i>Della m Clark</i>	<i>Della Clark</i>
Clark, Kristina Gale	<i>Kristina Gale Clark</i>
Clouden, Ada Kathryn <small>Asst Secretary</small>	<i>Ada Clouden</i>
Cofer, Vicki E	<i>Vicki E. Cofer</i>
Cooper, Lequincy Ramierz	<i>Lequincy Cooper</i>
Crew, Zachary	<i>Zachary Crew</i>
Crowe, Melissa Renee <small>Asst Foreperson</small>	<i>Melissa Crowe</i>
Ferrer Comparan, Mauricio	<i>Mauricio Ferrer Comparan</i>
Guntermann, Ansley	<i>Ansley Guntermann</i>
Hill, Gloria Dean	<i>Gloria Dean Hill</i>
Johnson Jr, Emory	<i>Emory Johnson</i>
Johnson, Nancy R	<i>Nancy Johnson</i>
Martin, Danial Celest <small>Secretary</small>	<i>Daniel Martin</i>
Mitchell Jr. David Harrison	<i>David Harrison Mitchell, Jr.</i>
Ortega, Maria Edna	<i>Maria Edna Ortega</i>
Palmer, Marianne L	<i>Marianne L Palmer</i>
Sutherland, Jessica Korin	<i>Jessica Korin Sutherland</i>
Teasley, Tina Ann	<i>Tina Ann Teasley</i>
Thomas, Denzel Devoe	<i>Denzel Devoe Thomas</i>
Wilson, Deborah Lynn <small>Foreperson</small>	<i>Deborah Lynn Wilson</i>
Alternates	
Apping, Darrell	<i>Darrell Apping</i>
Sorrells, Charles	excused after 1st session pr ASST DISTRICT ATTORNEY