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GEORGIA

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Clerk Superior Court, County, Ga.
Ek 02023 Pg 4067-4071
Penalty:

It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2023 July 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 Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court Athens-Clarke County,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 3rd day of October, 2023.

**Eric W. Norris, Judge
Superior Court Athens-Clarke County
Western Judicial Circuit**

Filed in Open Court this 3rd day of October, 2023.

Elisa Zarate, Clerk of Superior Court

General Presentation and Reports
Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury
Third Quarter Session 2023

On the 10th day of July 2023, the Honorable Judge Eric Norris selected a jury of 25 people including two alternates to the Grand Jury. Judge Eric Norris then administered the oath and charged them with their responsibilities.

The jurors then selected Kathryn Ford as Foreperson, Breanne Benton as Assistant Foreperson, Kristin Dorsey as Secretary, and Gregory Benson as Assistant Secretary.

The remaining jurors were Jason McFarland, Candance Falls, Don Hudson, Alexander White, Alana Hiers, Karen Stubbs, Eric Tibbetts, Lila Ralston, Drew Miller, Lloyd Ferguson, Jacob Vega, Kay Sunta, Paul Eberenz, Delilah M. Shields, Beverly Norman, Byron Torrence, Brian Jaramillo, Devin Lavender, and Cinda Boone. Alternate jurors were Christopher Bonner and Natasha Cooper.

Criminal Functions

The Grand Jury was presented with 152 cases. Of the cases, 148 were True Bills, 2 were No Bills, and 2 were returned as Split Bills. This activity took place July 18th, July 25th, August 1st, August 8th, August 15th, August 22nd, August 29th, September 5th, September 12th, September 19th, September 26th, and October 3rd.

Civil Functions

A team of jurors including Kathryn Ford, Breanne Benton, Cinda Boone and Lila Ralston were selected to appoint 6 members to the Equalization Board of Athens Clarke County. This team selected Ron Schwarz, Patricia Murray, and Nancy Burk for reappointment. New appointments were selected as Tawana Mattox, Quinton Elder, and Lucy Kern.

General Observations

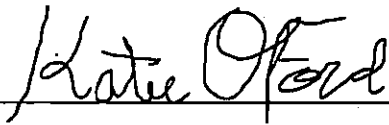
While the jury knows how understaffed the current office of the District Attorney is, we want to commend the office of the District Attorney and the officers and witnesses and thank them for their efforts to maintain the law in Athens Clarke County. This jury was able to make quick informed decisions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

Closing Remarks

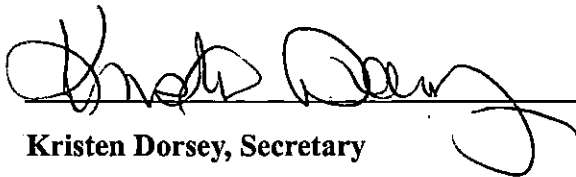
We ask that the court raise the compensation rate grand jurors are given from \$35 a day to \$50 a day and add an additional lunch allowance. We also recommend that the jurors be paid biweekly for their service, as this 3-month term is a long time to wait for payment, especially those that are not paid by their employers during this time.

Additionally, we suggest that the court provide a document outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Foreperson, Assistant Foreperson, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary. This should include a clear explanation of the voting process and how to properly document the indictments to notate "True", "No", and "Split" Bills. This resource should also include a guideline for presentments as well as a schedule of days in session.

Finally, we ask that the indictments be given a more thorough proofread before being presented to the Grand Jury as to speed up the jury process considerably.



Kathryn Ford, Foreperson



Kristen Dorsey, Secretary

Summer 2023 Jurors

Kathryn Ford, Foreperson	Katie Ford
Kristen Dorsey, Secretary	Kristen Dorsey
Breanne Benton, Assistant Foreperson	Breanne Benton
Gregory Benson, Assistant Secretary	Gregory Benson
Jason McFarland	
Candance Falls	
Don Hudson	Don Hudson
Karen Stubbs	Karen Stubbs
Lila Ralston	Lila Ralston
Drew Miller	Drew Miller
Lloyd Ferguson	Lloyd Ferguson
Jacob Vega	Jacob Vega
Kay Sunta	Kay Sunta
Paul Eberenz	
Delilah M. Shields	Delilah M. Shields
Beverly Norman <i>Norwood Pro</i>	Beverly Norman
Byron Torrence	Byron Torrence
Brian Jaramillo	Brian Jaramillo
Devin Lavender	Devin Lavender
Cinda Boone	Cinda Boone
Alexander White (MOVED)	N/A
Alana Heirs (MOVED)	N/A
Eric Tibbetts (MOVED)	N/A
Christopher Bonner (ALTERNATE)	N/A
Natasha Cooper (ALTERNATE)	N/A

Summer 2023 Jurors

Kathryn Ford, Foreperson	Katie Ford
Kristen Dorsey, Secretary	Kristen Dorsey
Breanne Benton, Assistant Foreperson	Breanne Benton
Gregory Benson, Assistant Secretary	Gregory Benson
Jason McFarland	
Candance Falls	
Don Hudson	Don Hudson
Karen Stubbs	Karen Stubbs
Lila Ralston	Lila Ralston
Drew Miller	Drew Miller
Lloyd Ferguson	Lloyd Ferguson
Jacob Vega	Jacob Vega
Kay Sunta	Kay Sunta
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Alana Heirs (MOVED)	N/A
Eric Tibbetts (MOVED)	N/A
Christopher Bonner (ALTERNATE)	N/A
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