

2024 MAR 21 PM 2:04

CINDY MASON, CLERK
COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

TO: The Honorable J. Wade Padgett
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Columbia County Grand Jury
September Term 2023

DATE: March 21, 2024

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Columbia County Grand Jury, for the September Term 2024, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. Wade Padgett on the 25th day of September 2023, submit our presentment on the 21st day of March 2024, our last day as an official body of Grand Jurors.

To discharge our sworn functions, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on twelve (12) occasions during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictment presented to us by staff of the District Attorney. A Sub-Committee was formed to inspect the following Columbia County Departments: the Columbia County Detention Center.

Respectfully, we present this presentment on the 21st day of March 2024 and request that it be published.

Michael Wayne Galliher, Foreperson



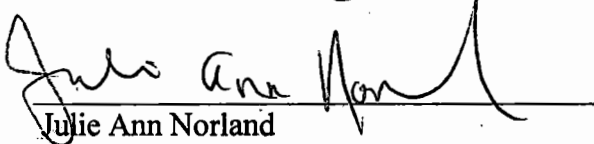
Andrew Durbin Chandler, Assistant Foreperson



Anita Kainth



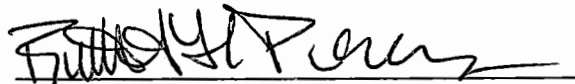
Nikki Lynn Baugh



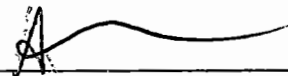
Julie Ann Norland

Constance Lowe Baldwin, Secretary

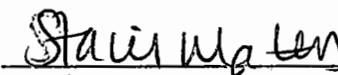
Caitlin Bevan



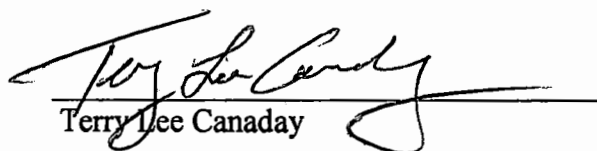
Ruth H. Perez



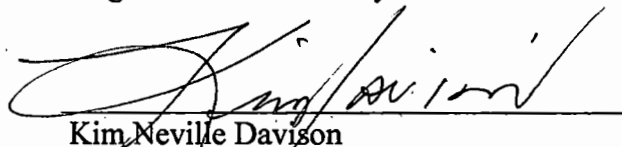
Angela Moore

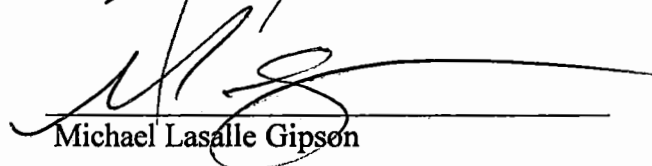


Stacie Waters


Terry Lee Canaday


Angela Hendrix Cassedy


Kim Neville Davison


Michael Lasalle Gipson


Kiauna Chang

Daniel Patrick Gross


Qing Zhong

John Gregory Lumpkin, Alternate

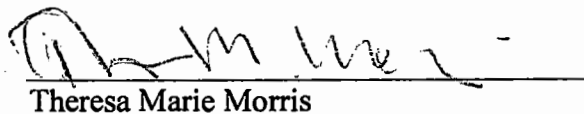

Obtavius Louis Buchanan

Daniel Edward Douglas


Anne Hoverkamp Osbon


Margaret Ann Shore

Shane Paul David Crowe


Theresa Marie Morris

Mathew Kevin Deren, Alternate

CLERK OF SUPERIOR
JUVENILE COURTS
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

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STATE OF GEORGIA

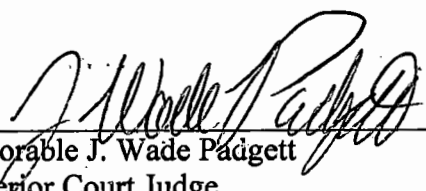
CINDY MASON, CLERK
COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE SEPTEMBER TERM 2023

The Grand Jury having returned the attached presentment for the September Term 2023, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on March 21, 2024, it is now

ORDERED that the same presentment shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Columbia County, and that it shall be published once in The Columbia County News-Times, the legal gazette for said County.

It is so ORDERED this 21 day of March 2024.



Honorable J. Wade Padgett
Superior Court Judge
Columbia Judicial Circuit

Grand Jury Inspection of Columbia County Detention Center

16 Nov 23

1. Seven members of the current Grand Jury visited the Columbia County Detention Center on the above date.
2. We were briefed by Captain John Sherman about the operations, procedures, and physical facility of the Detention Center.
3. There are separate male and female areas. Additionally, levels of detention are based on the severity of the crimes committed and on inmate behavior while housed in the Center. About half of the residents are NOT Columbia County residents. We toured various levels of detention, except the highest levels of detention, the medical area and the resident intake area. We did not visit the female area.
4. There are 140 staff, with 22 day and 20 full time correctional officers monitoring the residents. This goes on 24 hours per day and does not stop.
5. Consistent staffing levels remain problematic for the administration.
6. We ate a very good lunch in the dining facility and visited with Sheriff Whittle while there.

Conclusion:

All staff were professional and serious about their responsibilities. Leadership interacted well with their staff members and inmates.

The Center was well organized and disciplined. Every area we visited was in good repair, neat, orderly and well maintained. The floors were very clean and well polished, a salient indicator of the attention to details that the staff and leadership undertake. We found no deficiencies.

It is our opinion that the Columbia County Detention Center is an excellent facility, the residents are well cared for, and that this Center is a great asset to our community and to our Law Enforcement organization and staff.

Respectfully,

Andrew D. Chandler
Foreman, Pro Temps