

AUG 21 2017

Grant Walraven
Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF GORDON

The Gordon County Superior Court convened on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., with the Honorable D. Scott Smith, Judge, Superior Courts, Cherokee Circuit presiding. After Court was called to order, the following persons were selected as Grand Jurors for the June Term, 2017.

1. WALTER RUSKEY HARRIS, FOREPERSON

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| 2. VINCENT DILORENZO | 13. KATHERINE ANN BLAYLOCK |
| 3. ALLAN DALE MASON | 14. CHARLES H. PHELPS |
| 4. JOHN E. HARRIS | 15. BERGEN WAYNE PRIEST |
| 5. DEBRA J. NEIN | 16. CALVIN MATTOX |
| 6. LAURA SORIA-PALMERIN | 17. MICKI MARIE DEMILLE |
| 7. RACHEL M. GRAY | 18. BARBARA S. HALL |
| 8. JESSE BRUCE YOUNG | 19. STEPHANIE B. JONES |
| 9. RACHEL MARIE BROGDEN | 20. SUE GIBSON |
| 10. RILEY H. HALL | 21. DEBORAH S. MOSS |
| 11. JANA L. BELL | 22. BRENDA P. RICHARDS |
| 12. NORMAN HEATH YORK | 23. GREG BRYSON |

The following members were elected to serve as officers for this Grand Jury:

- 1) WALTER RUSKEY HARRIS, FOREPERSON
- 2) JANA L. BELL, VICE FOREPERSON
- 3) BARBARA S. HALL, CLERK
- 4) CHARLES H. PHELPS, DOORPERSON
- 5) CLIFF ROBERTS, BAILIFF

Judge D. Scott Smith charged and instructed the Grand Jury, which followed District Attorney Rosemary M. Greene administering the statutory oath to both the Foreperson and then to all other members of this Grand Jury, as well, as the required oaths to this grand jury's bailiffs.

We thank District Attorney Rosemary M. Greene and her Assistant District Attorneys for their legal opinions and the whole staff for the assistance in the proceedings as to criminal cases presented to this Grand Jury. We also commend our law enforcement personnel for the excellent job they do and thank the officers who appeared before this body from all the different local agencies for their efficiency, appearance and professionalism.

We thank our Bailiff, Mr. Cliff Roberts for his service and courtesy to this body and we recommend that Mr. Roberts be paid an additional day's pay for his performance and all extra duties and services that he provided this body. Additionally, we express our appreciation to the Clerk of Court, Grant Walraven, for providing refreshments.

1. We have examined all criminal cases presented by the District Attorney's Office and reported 44 True Bills and 3 No Bills.

2. In accordance with our statutory duties (O.C.G.A. § 36-1-7) on the first day of this term, this body received the written financial reports of the following county officials with a majority also voluntarily appeared and reviewed each report:

- (1) Hon. Mitch Ralston, Sheriff of Gordon County along with Chief Deputy Robert L. Paris & Major Pat Bedford;
- (2) Hon. Scott Clements, Tax Commissioner;
- (3) Hon. John R. (Richie) Parker, Judge of Probate Court;
- (4) Hon. Grant Walraven, Clerk of Court; and
- (5) Jim Ledbetter, County Attorney & Interim Administrator, Gordon County Board of Commissioners.

All financial reports have been examined and all are accepted as submitted. We appreciate and thank these officials for the job each is doing.

3. The Tax Execution Docket committee consisting of Micki DeMille, Deborah Moss and Charles Phelps, inspected our tax commissioner's Execution Docket and issued the following report: When visiting with Tax Commissioner Clements, we observed the original log book that was used many years ago to track all taxes in Gordon County which was done by hand in a ledger. Now, in 2017, of course all of the taxes are kept on software which makes things much easier. While there are some taxes that are owed from years prior to 2014, Commissioner Clements advised that each year tax collections are continuously closer to 100%.

98% of 2014 taxes have been collected, 97% of 2015 taxes have been collected and 96% of 2016 taxes have been collected. There are policies that have been put into place that are helping improve on property that is unfortunately been foreclosed on and then being settled by the new owner. We were all impressed with the knowledge and information that Commissioner Clements provided to us and appreciate the job that he has done as tax commissioner.

4. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-12-71(b)(1), this Grand Jury was designated as the one to conduct the annual inspection of the conditions and operations of the Gordon County Jail. The inspection committee members were Micki Demille, Debra Nein, Greg Bryson and Heath York. Our report is as follows: The inspection at the Gordon County Sheriff's Office exceeded our expectations. We found the facility to be in excellent condition, staffed and run professionally and we observed that all the prisoners are appropriately maintained. We do recommend additional space in the commissary store. More storage and shelving would be beneficial to Gordon County Sheriff's Office staff and inmates. We thank Sheriff Mitch Ralston and his officers and staff for the tour of the new jail and offices and also for the Sheriff's Auxiliary in providing a lunch following the tour.. The Grand Jury specifically thanks Sheriff Mitch Ralston and his department for their work to be good stewards of the tax payer's money. The sheriff is operating the jail and the department in a fiscally conservative manner.

5. We authorize our Foreperson to call this Grand Jury back into session any time during our appointed term, if he warrants it to be necessary.

6. We recommend these presentments be spread upon the minutes of the Court and be published in the legal organ of Gordon County.

This 21st day August, 2017.

Walter Harris

WALTER RUSKEY HARRIS
FOREPERSON

Jana L. Bell

JANA L. BELL
VICE FOREPERSON

Barbara S. Hall

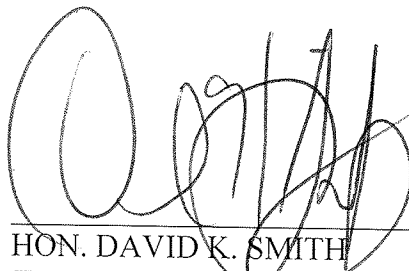
BARBARA S. HALL
CLERK

ORDER OF THE COURT

Presented in open court, let the same be filed and spread upon the minutes of the Court.

Let these presentments be published in the legal organ of Gordon County.

This 21st day of August, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. K. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

HON. DAVID K. SMITH
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURTS
CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT