

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF GORDON

The Gordon County Superior Court convened on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., with the Honorable Suzanne H. 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, 2021.

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| 1. Harlan Neal Crump, Foreperson | 14. Josian De Jesus Domenech |
| 2. Julina Caito | 15. Keith Walraven |
| 3. Anthony Timms | 16. Johnny Ray Hollier |
| 4. Jaydon Marmolejo | 17. Thomas Gardner |
| 5. Deborah Jones | 18. Melissa Nicholson Brannon |
| 6. David Hepperle | 19. Joshua Sparks |
| 7. Richard Andrew Heaton | 20. Rachel Dent |
| 8. Jose J. Maldonado | 21. Dennis Elmore |
| 9. Bryan Childs | 22. Carla Huff |
| 10. Raven Price | 23. Mitchell Allen Edgeman |
| 11. Charles Brown | 24. Daniel Edward Henning, Alternate |
| 12. Haley Page | 25. Mark Burchett, Alternate |
| 13. Roy Cason | 26. Seania Stephens, Alternate |

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

- 1) Harlan Neal Crump, Foreperson
- 2) Richard Andrew Heaton, Vice Foreperson
- 3) Carla Huff & Melissa Brannon, Clerks
- 4) Bryan Childs Doorperson
- 5) Dwight Gentry & Carlton Rogers, Bailiffs

FILED
Clerk Superior Ct., Gordon County

AUG 26 2021

Grant Walraven
Clerk

Judge Suzanne H. Smith charged and instructed the Grand Jury, which followed District Attorney Samir J. Patel administering the statutory oath to both the Foreperson and then to all other members of this Grand Jury and the required oaths to this grand jury's bailiffs.

We thank District Samir Patel and his 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 Bailiffs, Dwight Gentry and Carlton Rogers, for their service and courtesy to this body and we recommend that they be paid an additional day's pay for their performance and all extra duties and services that they provided this body.

1. We have examined all criminal cases presented by the District Attorney's Office and reported 29 True Bills and 2 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:

- (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, 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. In accordance with O.C.G.A. 48-5-161(d), this Grand Jury was designated as the one to conduct the annual inspection of the Execution Docket and Cashbook of the County Tax Commissioner. The inspection committee consisting of Harlan Neal Crump and Carla Huff, inspected our tax commissioner's Execution Docket and issued the following report: When visiting with Tax Commissioner Clements, we observed the general execution docket that was used many years ago to track all taxes in Gordon County which was done by hand in a ledger. Now in 2021, of course all of the taxes are kept electronically on software which makes things much easier. 99.59% of 2017 taxes have been collected; 99.45% of 2018 taxes have been collected; 98.27% of 2019 taxes have been collected and 97.50 of 2020 have been collected. There is a new night deposit that has been recently installed. We were all impressed with the knowledge and information that Commissioner Clements provided to us, and also appreciate the job he has done as tax commissioner.

While there are some taxes that are owed from years prior to 2020, Commissioner Clements advised that each year tax collections are continuously closer to 100%.

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 Bryan Childs and Dennis Elmore. Our report is as follows: The inspection at the Gordon County Sheriff's Office exceeded our expectations. Our tour was handled by Lt. John Vick and Lt. Brian Brannon who did a great job showing us around. We found the facility to be very clean and organized. The Gordon County Jail is staffed and run professionally, and we observed that all the prisoners are maintained appropriately. All safety measures are in place for the safety of the inmates and staff in addition to precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We thank Sheriff Mitch Ralston and his staff for a superb job and to be good stewards of the tax payer's money.

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 25th day August, 2021.



Harlan Neal Crump
Foreperson




Carla Huff
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 26th day of August, 2021.



HON. D. SCOTT SMITH
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURTS
CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT