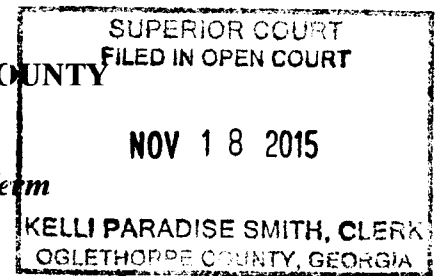


IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF OGLETHORPE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA



In Re: Oglethorpe County Grand Jury Proceedings, November 2015 Term

ORDER

The Grand Jury impaneled for the November 2015 Term of Superior Court of said County having been convened on this 16th day of November 2015 for the consideration of criminal Bills of Indictment, considered 36 Bills of Indictment, and returned 34 True Bills, and 2 No Bills. The Foreman of the Oglethorpe County Grand Jury for the November 2015 term of the Superior Court of said County, the Bailiff of the Grand Jury, and the District Attorney for the Northern Judicial Circuit appeared in open court and presented to the Court the findings of said Grand Jury and the Court having considered the same, the Court finds:

1.

The Grand Jury impaneled for the November 2015 Term of Superior Court of said County and convened on November 16, 2015 has completed all of the work which this Grand Jury is required by law and by this Court's Charge to perform.

2.

The District Attorney has informed the Court that the Grand Jury has acted on all criminal cases that have been presented to the Grand Jury and that there are no more cases that need to be presented at this time.

3.

Under the facts and circumstances stated above, this Court has the authority to recess the Grand Jury at this time.

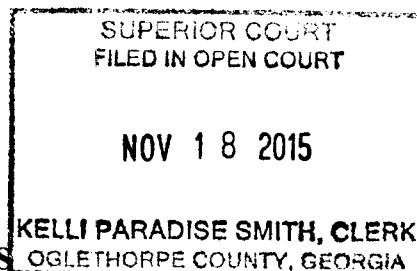
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Chris Phelps".

Honorable R. Chris Phelps
Judge of Superior Court
Northern Judicial Circuit
State of Georgia

**SUPERIOR COURT OF OGLETHORPE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In Re:
OGLETHORPE COUNTY GRAND JURY
PROCEEDINGS
NOVEMBER 2015 TERM



GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

To: HONORABLE R. CHRIS PHELPS, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
OGLETHORPE COUNTY, GEORGIA

The Grand Jury of Oglethorpe County was convened by order on November 16, 2015. The following citizens of Oglethorpe County, all of whom were 18 years of age or older, citizens of the United States and of this State, and otherwise eligible to serve as grand jurors, were selected, chosen, and sworn as Grand Jurors: CHRISTOPHER BRENT PRATS, VICTOR GAGLIANO, JENNIFER DAWN JORDAN, HOLLY S. FERGUSON, ANTHONY TYLER SHIMKETS, BRUCE LEE HILD, TRACY VANDIVER, EDDIE MAE WOODEN, LYNDA SNOWDEN JONES, DANNY L. SELF, ROBERT WAYNE CLARK, RICHARD H. SPIVEY, CASEY LYNN SPRINKLES, MICHAEL JAMES CAREY, AUBREY LEE ANDERSON, JOHN EDWIN CAMPBELL, COLTON OWEN GUEST, JOHN HENRY HOYLE, RYAN DYLAN TAYLOR, WAYNE MARABLE TURNER, MELISSA MAXEY ERWIN, BETH DANIELLE WASHINGTON.

The following Grand Jurors were elected as officers:
CHRISTOPHER BRENT PRATS, FOREPERSON
VICTOR GAGLIANO, ASSISTANT FOREPERSON
JENNIFER DAWN JORDAN, CLERK
HOLLY S. FERGUSON, ASSISTANT CLERK
ANTHONY TYLER SHIMKETS, DOORKEEPER
BRUCE LEE HILD, ASSISTANT DOORKEEPER

The Grand Jury again convened at 9:00 a.m. on **November 16, 2015** and conducted business. Business was conducted until approximately 5:30 p.m. each day or until all business matters were completed. Jurors were excused each day for approximately 1 hour for lunch.

During the session, the Grand Jury was presented with 36 criminal cases. 34 cases were sent forward as True bills and there were 2 No bills.

We, The Grand Jury, would like to thank the Honorable Chris Phelps, District Attorney D. Parks White, Assistant District Attorney Geoffrey Fogus, Assistant District Attorney Adam Wilkinson, Assistant District Attorney Nicole Roddenbery, Kelli Paradise Smith, Clerk of Court, Bailiff Sam Ingram and all other officers of the Court and Oglethorpe County, for the efficient and professional manner in which they handled their duties and responsibilities.

The Grand Jury heard from the following County Officials:

Josh Hawkins – County Administrator
Beverly Levine – Superintendent of Public Schools
D. Parks White – District Attorney
Kristie Cross – Victim Assistance Coordinator, DA's Office
Capt. Shalon Huff – Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office
Capt. Mike Haler – Oglethorpe County Jail Administrator

Written reports were delivered by the following county officials:

Kelli Paradise Smith – Clerk of Court
Judge Gail Smith – Chief Magistrate
Judge Beverly Nation – Probate Judge
Shelia Arnold – Tax Commissioner
Billy Pittard – Chairman of the Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: D. Parks White briefly explained the history of Grand Juries, the roles the Grand Jury play in the judicial system, and how the jurors would perform their duties. He also explained the duties of his office in the Northern Judicial Circuit which consists of Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison, and Oglethorpe Counties. He described the challenges he and his staff faces while performing their jobs.

- The District Attorney's Office prosecutes misdemeanor and felony cases for all counties except Elbert County, which has a state court which handles the prosecution of misdemeanor cases
- Over the last three years, the DA's office, with a staff of six state paid Assistant District Attorneys, has closed nearly 8,000 criminal cases.
- The DA's office has improved the conviction rate at trial to 90%
- The DA's office works closely with law enforcement on serious, violent felonies, starting with the investigation stage.

We have no recommendation for this office.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, JOSH HAWKINS: Mr. Hawkins presented a powerpoint with the following information:

- How revenue is earned for the county;
- How revenue is disbursed to the county offices;
- State mandated expenditures;
- Discretionary expenditures;
- The purchase of used equipment to service out of county roads for revenue.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL TOUR: Capt. Shalon Huff and Capt. Mike Haler of the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office provided the grand jurors with a tour of the jail. We were presented with the following information:

- Capacity of jail and maximum capacity;
- The amount of criminal cases and civil cases for the year.
- Lack of manpower to accommodate the total square footage of the County.

We found the inmates to be treated humanely and the jail to be in clean, sanitary conditions. We have no recommendations for improvement of ventilation or heating of the jail.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Beverly Levine provided a report regarding the following:

- Student Population;
- Communication Methods;
- Key Initiatives;
- Strategic Planning;
- Financial planning and budget;
- County Student Averages and State Student Averages

We have no recommendation for this office.

APPOINTMENTS:

The Grand Jury was called upon to affirm the appoint George Gray to the Board of Voter Registrars. This appointment was made by the last Grand Jury of Oglethorpe County, but it was not reflected in their general presentments. This appointment is effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following recommendations were made by the Grand Jury:

1. Feasibility study to include but not limited to the following
 - Is it possible to reduce the cost of ambulance service by outsourcing
 - Benefits and cons of using National (or some other service) vs. County
 - Patient ration
 - Lives saved vs lives lost
 - Response times to calls
 - Paid for out of Planning and Zoning or Contingency account or sell county property not being utilized
 - If outsourced, how will this affect the EMR
 - Public response to this request specifically published
2. We recommend the Sheriff's Office to allocate more budget funds towards additional Deputies and vehicles.
3. We recommend the County Commissioner, Billy Pittard, appear at our next meeting to answer unanswered questions concerning the Board Of Commissioner's presentation.

I, CHRISTOPHER BRENT PRATS, as Foreperson of the November 2015 Term Grand Jury, wish to express my appreciation to members of the Grand Jury for their hard work during this term. And as foreperson I wish to express my thanks to the other officers of the Grand Jury for their assistance.

We, the Grand Jurors for the November 2015 Term of Court for the County of Oglethorpe, acknowledge we have Sworn an Oath to keep their deliberations secret, now and in the future, unless called upon to give evidence in some Court of law in this State. *So Help Me God.*

1. Christopher B. Prats
CHRISTOPHER BRENT PRATS
2. Victor Gagliano
VICTOR GAGLIANO
3. Jennifer Dawn Jordan
JENNIFER DAWN JORDAN
4. Holly S. Ferguson
HOLLY S. FERGUSON
5. Anthony Tyler Shimkets
ANTHONY TYLER SHIMKETS
6. Bruce Lee Hild
BRUCE LEE HILD
7. Tracy Vandiver
TRACY VANDIVER
8. Eddie Mae Wooden
EDDIE MAE WOODEN
9. Lynda Snowden Jones
LYNDA SNOWDEN JONES
10. Danny L. Self
DANNY L. SELF
11. Robert Wayne Clark
ROBERT WAYNE CLARK
12. Richard H. Spivey
RICHARD H. SPIVEY
13. Casey Lynn Sprinkles
CASEY LYNN SPRINKLES
14. Michael James Carey
MICHAEL JAMES CAREY
15. Aubrey Lee Anderson
AUBREY LEE ANDERSON
16. John Edwin Campbell
JOHN EDWIN CAMPBELL
17. Colton Owen Guest
COLTON OWEN GUEST
18. John Henry Hoyle
JOHN HENRY HOYLE
19. Ryan Dylan Taylor
RYAN DYLAN TAYLOR
20. Wayne Marable Turner
WAYNE MARABLE TURNER
21. Melissa Maxey Erwin
MELISSA MAXEY ERWIN
22. Beth Danielle Washington
BETH DANIELLE WASHINGTON