September 27, 2002

To: Judge C. Blackburn & staff
Fr: Leslie Gregg, Grand Juror
(Session - July 8 - Sept. 24, 2002)

SEP 27 AM 11:52
CLERK
DC

RE: Grand Jury Service Report

There it was in the mail...the infamous letter with a summons to report for Grand Jury selections on May 28th! How "lucky" could I be!! I was in the middle of planning and implementing a summer camp on top of a full time job and a non-stop schedule after work. I had NO idea how I could possibly fit one more thing in a day. I could only hope and pray that I wouldn't be picked. Well, my lucky streak was on a roll that day because not only was I picked from a whole room of people (who I was sure had nothing else to do!), but I was selected as the "1st official grand juror"!

Now, three months later, I can honestly report that this has been a most rewarding, eye-opening, and an even enjoyable experience (even with all the "harassment" by a certain grand jury foreman). No matter what he says, I was there on time - most of the time. I'm still not sure HOW or WHY my fellow jurors all showed up everyday at the crack of dawn!

From the very first day, we heard stories of people and crimes in Davidson County that have opened my eyes to a whole different "world" in Nashville. I was constantly amazed and/or appalled at the things people do (some - repeatedly). Most importantly, I was impressed with the metro police and undercover officers, detectives, jail/prison guards etc.. who are out there everyday and every night while most of us stay in our little boxes. I have a much better understanding and appreciation of what our law enforcement officers do and how the court system works now. I also have an even greater amount of respect for all those who work so hard to keep our city safe.

The field trips were especially interesting! We visited the Metro Criminal Justice Center, Riverbend Prison, and the very impressive Drug Court (lunch was great!). Each visit was quite extensive. Our guides took the time to walk us through every facet of their facility and answer our questions. I have now seen the SMU unit at the County Jail and Death Row at Riverbend! Captain Gary Goodwin came to speak to us about drugs with lots of samples (to look at, of course!). Several jurors went on weekend ride-a-longs and had great stories to tell on Mondays. David was a super tour coordinator (excluding the first "hot van trip" and the fact that they all left me one time!). Just kidding...David was incredibly patient with us even though we didn't make it easy for him to schedule a couple of the tours. I hope to take a tour of the Juvenile Court Facilities during the next session of Grand Jury. Don't forget to call me David!

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Grand Jury and I am so glad to had the opportunity to meet some really great people. Thanks to Joe, Jason, Cindy, Vann, Sandra, EJ, Nick Louie, Jessica, Randall, Jeff, Helen, and Pat (our favorite foreman!) who helped to make this

an unforgettable experience (and I do mean **UNFORGETTABLE!**). I would also like to thank Donna for her tireless efforts in taking "care" of us. The entire staff was great!

Pat told me to make this short so I will end by saying again that I am honored to have been able to serve as a member of the Grand Jury. Thank you, Judge Blackburn, for everything you and your staff did to make this particular experience one that I feel very proud to have been a part of. I have truly learned a lot and will continue to pray that one day all of our efforts make a real difference in Nashville.

Thank you.

Leslie Briggs