

Grand Jury Final Report

July 2008 Term

Submitted to
Honorable Judge Monte Watkins
Criminal Court Division

Davidson County, Tennessee

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY JULY 2008 TERM

Overview

WE, the Davidson County Grand Jurors for the July 2008 term, submit the following report in summary of the three months served. It has been an honor and true pleasure to serve under the auspices of the Honorable Monte Watkins, Judge, Division V Criminal Court. We also would like to thank District Attorney General Victor "Torry" Johnson III for an enlightening orientation on our first day. We especially like to thank his legal and support staff: Mary Houseman, Rodney Faulk, John Henry, Sonja Newbell and Laurie Hoeberry. On a day-to-day basis, they prepared all of the prosecuting witnesses, necessary paperwork and dockets for each case and explained all legal terms and ramifications, if need be, with a smile. Tamika Clarke, the Judicial Administrative Assistant to Judge Monte Watkins, Criminal Court Division V, was extremely helpful in arranging alternate jurors, keeping our attendance schedule and coordinating site visits. Thanks again Ms. Clarke. From this experience, fifteen extraordinary men and women from all walks of life would become insiders in Nashville Davidson County's Criminal Justice system. It was truly an opportunity of a lifetime; one in which we all gained invaluable insight and has proven to be educational and rewarding.

Our Grand Jury Foreman

The Members of the Grand Jury would like to especially thank our Foreman, Mr. Arnett Bodenhamer, for his leadership and guidance throughout this tenure. We were a very diverse group and oftentimes very opinionated, however, Mr. Bodenhamer was always there to get us back on task. He allowed us to share many of our personal experiences which lead to heartfelt discussions during deliberations. We feel confident that, through his guidance

we thoroughly analyzed and treated each case with integrity and all fairness. Mr. Bodenhamer strongly emphasized that the role of the grand jury was NOT to determine one's innocence or guilt but to find probable cause that a crime has been committed by the accused. We thank you Mr. Bodenhamer!

Our Deliberations

In accordance to the Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Grand Jury deliberated upon 1052 cases over the last three months. We presented the court with 1038 True Bills and 14 No True Bills. As members of the Grand Jury we felt that we performed one of the most sacred duties of citizenship. Therefore, we each took our sworn commitment very seriously and deliberated each case with much thought.

Law Enforcement Officers

The Members of the Grand Jury would like to especially commend our law enforcement officers. The majority of our cases were presented to us by these officers who, a lot of times, were just getting off of work and/or had to bring their children along for their presentation. They were usually dressed in uniform or shirt and tie and always respectful to the Grand Jury. We thank them for that. We have all been impressed by their professionalism, education and sometimes sense of humor. Most of them, except for two, were very well prepared and we applaud them for their dedication and diligence. We all have gained a deeper respect for and greater knowledge of their service and commitment; which most times goes unnoticed!

