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GEORGIA
ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Clerk Superior Court, County, Ga.
Bk 02025 Pg 3166-3172
Penalty:

It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2025 April Term of the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County be entered on the minutes of the Court and published at the expense of the County in the official organ of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court Athens-Clarke County,

This 1st day of July, 2025.

**Judge H. Patrick Haggard
Superior Court, Athens-Clarke County
Western Judicial Circuit**

Filed in Open Court this 1st day of July, 2025.

Elisa Zarate, Clerk of Court

General Presentment and Reports
Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury
April 2025 Term

On April 14, 2025, twenty-five jurors, including two alternates, were selected to serve as members of the Grand Jury for the April 2025 term of the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court. The Honorable Judge Patrick Haggard administered the oath of service and formally charged the jurors with their responsibilities.

The Grand Jury elected the following officers:

- Calethia Daniel, Foreperson
- Sloan Murray, Assistant Foreperson
- Elijah McCurry, Secretary
- Nathaniel Jones, Assistant Secretary

The remaining jurors were:

Amy Husfield, Charlton Dillon Bond, Elijah McCurry, Franklin Scott, Jacob Serrett, Jennifer Padgett, Jill Crandall, John (Jack) Cooney, Joseph Fowler, Matthew Reiter, Otis Ritter, Rachel Bathe, Robert Newsome, Sarah McCannon, Stephen Foster, Szilua Somogyi, Tamara Neff, Taniya Cooper, Ella Willingham, Gerneatha Daniel, Haley Cullum (Alternate), and Sharhonda Clink (Alternate).

I. Criminal Functions

During the April 2025 term, the Grand Jury reviewed 195 cases for indictment. The outcomes were as follows:

- True Bills Returned: 192
- Split Bills Returned: 3
- No Bills Returned: 0

These proceedings were conducted over 12 sessions held on: April 15, 21, 28; May 6, 13, 20, 27; and June 3, 10, 17, 24 and July 1, 2025.

II. Civil Functions

As part of its civil responsibilities, the Grand Jury inspected the Clarke County Jail. Individual inspection reports are included as Addendum A.

III. Acknowledgments

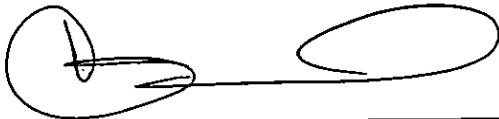
The Grand Jury extends its sincere appreciation to District Attorney Kalki Yalamanchili and Paige Otwell for their support and guidance throughout the term. We also thank the law enforcement officers who appeared before us to offer testimony and answer our questions with professionalism and clarity. Additionally, we recognize the Bailiffs for their assistance in ensuring proceedings were conducted efficiently and in accordance with protocol.

IV. Closing Remarks

While Grand Jury service is not voluntary, it is a solemn duty that offers citizens a unique opportunity to contribute to the judicial process and uphold the rights of the accused. For many jurors, this term marked their first direct experience with the justice system. The work has been enlightening, at times emotionally taxing, and always a serious responsibility.

We commend our fellow jurors for their dedication, time, and thoughtful participation. We also acknowledge the support of our families, employers, colleagues, the District Attorney's Office, the Athens-Clarke County Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, and the broader community for making this service possible.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of July, 2025.



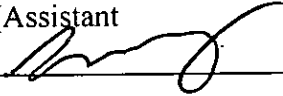
Calethia Daniel, Foreperson

Elijah McCurry, Secretary

Grand Jury Member Signature List

Clarke County Grand Jury, April 2025

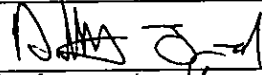
Sloan Murray (Assistant Foreperson)



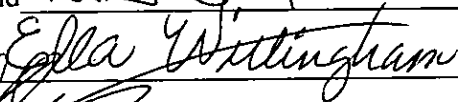
Nathaniel Jones (Assistant Secretary)

Amy Husfield

Charlton Dillion Bond



Ella Willingham



Franklin Scott



Gerneatha Daniel



Haley Cullum (Alternate)



Jacob Serrertt

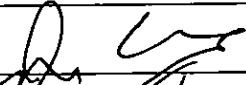


Jennifer Padgett

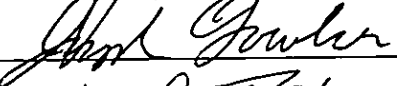


Jill Crandall

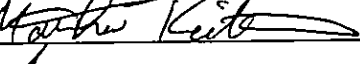
John (Jack) Cooney



Jospeh Fowler



Matthew Reiter




Otis Ritter



Rachel Bathe

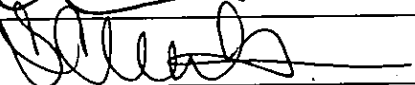
Robert Newsome



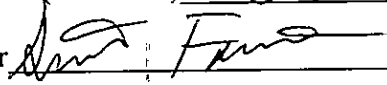
Sarah McCannon



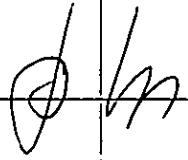
Sharhonda Clink (Alternate)



Stephen Foster



Sziluia Somooi



Tamara Neff

Taniya Cooper



ADDENDUM A

Clarke County Jail Inspection Report

Grand Jury – April 2025 Term

I. Purpose of Inspection

The purpose of the Clarke County Jail inspection was to ensure that the facility is operating in compliance with expected standards regarding cleanliness, inmate welfare, staffing, and service delivery.

II. Date of Visit

The inspection was conducted on May 13, 2025.

III. Participants

The following Grand Jury members participated in the inspection:

- Calethia Daniel
- Szilua Somooi
- Jennifer Padgett
- Matthew Reiter
- Jill Crandall
- Gerneatha Daniel
- Haley Cullum

Jail administration and representatives from the Clarke County Sheriff's Office assisted and guided the tour.

IV. Findings and Observations

- The facility was notably clean and well-maintained throughout the areas observed.
- The jail provides a variety of programs aimed at preparing inmates with valuable life and employment skills for successful reintegration into the community after release.
- The facility is currently understaffed, which was evident during the tour.
- Jail administration reported that staffing shortages are largely due to a pay disparity between Sheriff's deputies and city police officers.
- Food quality appeared substandard. We were informed that the current budget allocates just over \$2 per inmate per day, limiting food quality and preparation resources.

V. Recommendations

The Grand Jury respectfully makes the following recommendations:

1. Review and adjust the budget to support increased compensation for Sheriff's deputies.
2. Increase funding for food services, including meal ingredients and kitchen equipment.

3. Provide additional resources to ensure inmates receive three meals per day on holidays and during non-traditional mealtimes.

VI. Conclusion

Overall, the Clarke County Jail meets standards in areas such as cleanliness and the availability of rehabilitative programs. However, the Grand Jury has serious concerns regarding staffing shortages and food service quality. We encourage the appropriate governing bodies to address these concerns to ensure the safety, well-being, and dignity of both inmates and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Calethia Daniel, Foreperson

Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury

April 2025 Term