

Patty Baker, Clerk of Superior Court - Cherokee County, GA

**CHEROKEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT

To: Honorable Ellen McElyea
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia

Honorable David L. Cannon, Jr.
Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia

Honorable M. Anthony Baker
Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia

We, the members of the Grand Jury, chosen and sworn to serve the January 2022 Term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and recommendations:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, heard 102 Bills of Indictment, returned 102 True Bills and 0 No Bill.

Presentment 1:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, express our thanks to the Honorable Judge M. Anthony Baker for his professionalism and informative empanelment of this Grand Jury.

Presentment 2:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, commend the Honorable M. Anthony Baker, District Attorney Shannon Wallace, and Clerk of Courts Patty Baker, for the informative Grand Jury training and orientation that we received on the morning of January 10, 2022.

Presentment 3:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, commend Bailiffs Faye McCurry, Linda Wolfe, Tom Owen and James Harris for their diligent assistance in arranging materials for the Grand Jury proceedings, managing the schedule for cases to be presented, coordinating Grand Jury payroll and ensuring that all of the Grand Jury proceedings ran smoothly.

Presentment 4:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, commend District Attorney Shannon Wallace, each of her Assistant District Attorneys and staff members, and each law enforcement officer and investigator

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associated with the cases brought before this Grand Jury for their professionalism and hard work in protecting the citizens of Cherokee County.

Presentment 5:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, express our sincere appreciation to Sheriff Frank Reynolds, Chief Deputy Tommy Pinyan, Major Danny Higgins, and Captain James Cox for hosting an informative tour of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center on March 14, 2022. We, the Grand Jury, inspected a male and female housing unit, the medical unit, and the intake area of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center. Overall, we found these areas to be clean, orderly and effectively managed.

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, commend Sheriff Reynolds and his staff for the implementation of various inmate programs inside of the Detention Center such as the Art program.

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, recommend a separate space be designated inside of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center to house inmates with significant mental health needs. As mental health issues continue to be a major concern inside of the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center, we also recommend the Sheriff continue to work with the appropriate state and local agencies to provide mental health support to the inmates in his custody. Furthermore, we recommend that all law enforcement who work with inmates receive specialized training in interacting with individuals diagnosed with mental illnesses.

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, make the following general recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, have found parking at the Justice Center to be inadequate and immediately in need of expansion. Until the amount of parking spaces are increased, we, the January 2022 Grand Jury, recommend parking spaces in the current parking deck be reserved for all jurors during grand jury and jury trials. Likewise, we recommend Grand Jury not be held on the same day as the start of any jury trial week due to the number of jurors required to be present in the building.

Recommendation 2:

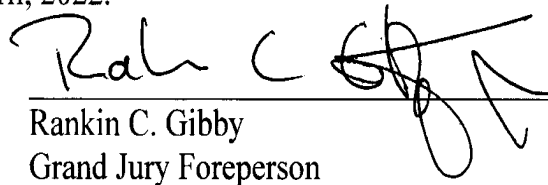
We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, recommend the Grand Jury Room be enlarged as the current meeting room does not have adequate space for the Grand Jurors to be comfortable and socially distanced and is not functional for the needs of the Grand Jury.

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Recommendation 3:

We, the January 2022 Grand Jury, recommend more awareness be brought to the Cherokee County Accountability Court Programs and the Pretrial Diversion Program which provide a tremendous benefit to Cherokee County. For more information about the Drug Accountability Court, go to www.brjcdac.org; for more information about the Veterans Accountability Court, go to www.cherokeega.com/Veterans-Court; for more information about Treatment Accountability Court, go to www.cherokeega.com/Cherokee-County-Treatment-Accountability-Court; and for more information about the Pretrial Diversion Program, go to www.cherokeega.com/District-Attorneys-Office/PRETRIAL-DIVERSION.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of April, 2022.


Rankin C. Gibby
Grand Jury Foreperson

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ORDER

It is ordered that the within and foregoing Grand Jury Presentment having been read and considered, the same be filed.

It is further ordered that a copy of the Grand Jury Presentment, along with a copy of this Order, be sent to the Cherokee Tribune for publication and the usual fees paid thereon.

This the 12 day of Apr, 2022.



Judge, Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit