

## **Grand Jury Report May-June 2014**

Serving on the Grand Jury during May-June 2014 was an enlightening experience for many of us. We were able to learn the processes and proceedings for Grand Jury indictments. Many of us were left with a sense of accomplishment after each Jury session. Unfortunately we were also left with a sense of disgust not only at those who were arrested for said crimes but of areas of the system.

It is the opinion of several Grand Jurors that the Oak Grove Police Department is severely understaffed. The citizens of Oak Grove and the current officers on Oak Grove's force deserve to be staffed more adequately.

The use of Confidential Informants was found to be extremely useful in drug trafficking cases. Confidential informants should be adequately compensated for their time and efforts.

The Grand Jury also found that it is somewhat difficult for non-custodial parents who have difficulty paying their Child Support obligations. The system should support those who are willing and attempting to pay, and only initiate arrest warrants when the parent is unwilling and habitually lacking in their child support payments.

The Grand Jury also feels that those convicted of crimes should receive a tougher sentence for the first offense. Stricter sentences for the first offense will decrease the likelihood of repeat offenders and decrease the system being bogged down.

The current juror pay rate of \$12.50 per day does not adequately compensate jurors for their time off of work. We wish that the legislators would seriously consider an increase in juror pay across the state to take into account the sacrifices made by those who serve on any jury.

In review of the May 2014 Election Report, we were pleased to learn that there were no major issues in the actual voting process. However, we did learn of the shortage of poll workers and would encourage anyone that is interested to contact Christian County's Clerk Mike Kem to sign up for this position. It is necessary to have a sufficient number of adequately trained poll workers to ensure the legitimacy of any election.

It has been an honor to serve Christian County as the Grand Jury for May-June 2014. We tip our hats to the law enforcement officials who serve our community daily. We offer thanks to Ms. Pryor and her team for being supportive of us throughout the process.

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FOREPERSON