

MARCH-APRIL 2012 GRAND JURY REPORT

We, the Grand Jury, would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve for the months of March and April 2012. We would like to commend all the officers for the extensive and tiring work they do, as well as Lynn Pryor and her staff for their knowledge and understanding of the law, and for all of their efforts to make this community a better place.

We have come to realize how much crime is in Christian County and how important it is to have an effective judicial system to keep criminals out of our streets. It seems that no matter what the jury or judge chooses, the same criminals tend to repeat more crimes once they are out of jail. We feel that this is proof that they are not sentenced to long enough terms. Because of the crowded jails, criminals only serve a small portion of their actual sentence. We believe that Christian County needs to be stricter on the punishment of the repeat offenders.

It is unbelievable how oblivious the community is about the crime that is around us. It has been an enlightening experience to serve on the grand jury. It taught us so many things about the laws, some of which many of us did not know existed. We developed a better understanding of drugs and synthetic drugs [bath salts, K2, and other varieties] and household items that are used in the production or ingestion of drugs. Christian County has an extreme problem with all intoxicating substances. It is sad to think how unsafe it can be to be around some members of our community, especially parents that let their children grow up around drugs. If this problem continues, children will grow up thinking drugs are a normal way of living.

Theft is another big problem in Christian County. It is embarrassing to think that, years ago, no one had to worry about this problem. In current times, you need to lockup all items or you are at a great risk of a thief taking and selling your property.

Also, the juror pay for one day is \$12.50, which is not nearly enough for some people when the days can be long, and the juror could be at work making more money for their families in these difficult times. For others, it is not as big as a deal, but we believe that the juror pay should be increased. On the brighter side, we have all had a great time serving on the grand jury and realized it is not as bad as we all thought it would be. Serving on the grand jury is something that everyone should experience at least one time in their life.

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