



We the members of the September/October 2012 Grand Jury would offer this summary of our experiences while serving on the Christian County Grand Jury.

We believe that serving on the Christian County Grand Jury was a privilege. This service was very educational and we sincerely hope that our efforts will make our community a safer place to live, work and raise families.

We would like to thank the Commonwealth's Attorney and Assistants for their guidance in explaining and helping us to understand legal terms and the law as it pertained to our role on the Grand Jury. Thank you also for providing the much needed refreshments every Friday.

We would like to express our profound gratitude to all of the law enforcement personnel in Christian County and the state. We appreciate what you do on a daily basis to make our county and state a safer place. We realize that there are great sacrifices made for the job you do and it does not go unnoticed. We would also like to thank your families for the sacrifices that they make. Our hope is that the victims of crimes are treated with dignity and respect by the officers that are protecting us. We also hope that the victims of these crimes are kept informed about the status of the investigations.

The following are a few topics we would like to touch on in this report:

First we believe that the officers that come here as witnesses on the whole are very prepared. They knew dates and names and could give us facts. This made our job as the Grand Jury easier to do. On a few rare occasions we felt that there were a couple of officers who were unprepared and could not recall dates and specifics and did not have notes to fall back on. We as a Jury found it irritating when a witness showed up late or not at all. We understand that unforeseen things happen but our time is valuable also.

The next issue seems to be one that all past Grand Juries have expressed: Jury Pay. The 12.50 a day is not sufficient for the amount of work that the Grand Jury does every Friday. We believe if you are called to sit on a trial or are selected

for Grand Jury duty the pay should commensurate with the job you are performing.

After listening to the variety of cases we felt that there are some areas that could be improved upon. One area in particular is the State Benefits programs, (SNAP, Welfare, Medicaid, etc). We heard multiple cases of fraud used to obtain state benefits. We were advised that benefits are given on the honor system and that case workers trust the information the recipient is giving them is truthful. We believe this system should be completely overhauled. There should be a way to verify that the information given is truthful and accurate so people get the benefits they qualify for and no more. This would prevent money, time and effort being spent on investigating these types of fraud. We realize the case workers are overwhelmed but if there was a system such as "Batch/Match" they could use at the front end while determining eligibility; we believe the amount of fraud would decrease significantly providing a large cost savings for the state.

Again we would like to say that it has been our honor serving for Grand Jury Duty for Christian County.

Jim Snabbe 10-26-12
FOREPERSON