

MAY-JUNE 2009 GRAND JURY REPORT

As the Grand Jury for May and June of 2009, we would like to thank the Court for this opportunity to serve. It has been an enlightening experience.

Many of the charges that came before us were connected in some way to drugs. We are concerned that too many of these cases involve repeat offenders, and we question if the amount of jail time served for drug related crimes is a sufficient deterrent. We also question if there are enough drug treatment services available. One of the most troubling cases that came before us involved a baby born with drug addiction, who later died, and yet there are no adequate laws to punish a mother for taking drugs while pregnant.

We would recommend that our police be supplied with the technology that they need to investigate computer crimes, especially those dealing with child pornography. We would like to see support for a local gang task force and funding for a database for their use in combating this problem.

We wish to thank Lynn Pryor and the Commonwealth Attorney's office for their invaluable assistance. We are grateful for the work done by Keith Martin with the Inspector General's office to prosecute those who fraudulently obtain food stamps and Medicaid benefits. We also commend Hon. Lindsey Adams for his efforts in the collection of child support. A great debt is owed by this community to the many fine men and women who serve and protect us. Finally, thank you to Judge Atkins for his time and patience.

It has been our pleasure to serve as Grand Jury members.

Foreperson