

## **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009**

### **GRAND JURY REPORT**

First and foremost, we would like to thank Commonwealth's Attorney Ms. Lynn Pryor, her associates, and Judge Atkins for allowing us to be on the November - December 2009 Grand Jury. We would also like to thank the Christian County law enforcement officers for serving our community everyday and keeping our streets as safe as possible. Big thanks to you! We really had an eye-opening experience on the cases which ranged from stealing, rape, and drug trafficking - just to name a few. People don't realize how much really goes on in our community until you've had an experience like this.

Listening to cases on welfare was also an eye opener. We were surprised to find out how people are defrauding the system. They know that the information that they are telling caseworkers is false. If the state has a way to check if someone is working, it should be used every time some one recertifies for their SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid, or any other government assistance. Regardless if they sign a statement or not, there should be a way to track the validity of this. This way it can be caught before hundreds of dollars are lost and unrecoverable.

The pawn shops and jewelry places should change their policies regarding merchandise that may be stolen. Pawn shops take merchandise and later find out the item or items were stolen. We know that pawn shops take in a great deal of jewelry on a daily basis. Pawn shops and jewelry stores should keep the jewelry or item that is being pawned and retain it for up to 90 days or more. Jewelry shops may melt down items to make a new item and never check to see if

it has been stolen. They may send it off to a cash-for-gold place in the mail. The people that are bringing these items in should have their license copied and a photo taken of them with the item.

We also heard several cases involving women who used narcotics while pregnant. Women that snort, sniff, or inject drugs should be accountable for their actions in hurting another human being. Do they really care that they might be giving birth to a child that might have a birth defect or one that cries uncontrollably because they are going through withdrawals. Every child should be cared for before they are born and after that.

Once again, we would like to thank you for all your help to preserve the dignity and peace of our community and for allowing us to serve on the Grand Jury.

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Foreperson