

The Christian County Grand Jury of March - April 2008 would like to express our thanks to Commonwealth's Attorney Lynn Pryor and staff for their leadership and instruction during our term. We would also like to thank the men, women, and canine officers of our local and state law enforcement agencies for their professionalism as well as their willingness to risk their lives protecting our streets and serving our communities.

During our two-month term, we heard a variety of cases, watched and heard presentations, and listened to some of the many needs and challenges that our law enforcement agencies face on a daily basis.

Many of us understand the complexity of state, local, and even personal budgeting and know that much discussion and compromise must take place. With that in mind, we the Grand Jury of March-April 2008 would like to submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

- Juror Pay -- It is our understanding that Juror pay has been the same for approximately the last 40 years or so. While this was adequate in years past, it has not kept up with inflation and gasoline prices. This is not a big issue for all, as many of us are fortunate enough to have jobs that pay us our regular salary while serving. However, there is a population that wishes to serve and are serving that that may not be the case. For example, those that are self employed where time is money or those who work part-time and have no benefits where reimbursement for time lost doesn't exist and even those on fixed income. We understand that this is a community service, but even so, that service should not be a hardship or a hindrance to those willing and truly desiring to serve.
- Canine Benefits -- This recommendation may seem strange at first reading, but we believe it is worth serious consideration. Our canine officers serve an important role in the realm of law enforcement. They are trained to "sniff out" explosives and drugs; follow scent trails of criminals; chase and overcome fleeing law breakers; and many other duties. These officers risk their lives for their human partners, not by choice, but by command. They bear the risk of death in many cases so that their partner's risks are minimized. They are loved and cared for by their trainers and their needs provided for by their department during their time of service. It is our understanding that there is no financial support for them at retirement and the burden is often placed upon their partners, whose salaries, by the way, are not always sufficient. Just as we provide retirement benefits to our human officers based on years of service, we would like to recommend that similar benefits be extended to our canine officers to assist their care providers in meeting their nutritional and health care needs.
- Street Crimes Unit -- After hearing the presentation concerning the SCU,

we were convinced that this department/service is greatly beneficial to our safety and welfare. There is a proverbial statement that says "knowledge is power". This unit is essential not only in identifying gangs, but exposing them. By knowing the "enemy" so to speak, we are better able to plan and execute interventions to dismantle them. Again, we understand budgeting issues and concerns, but some things are worth the sacrifice. We cannot put a price on safety and peace of mind, 911 taught us that. We would like to recommend that funds be made available to support the operation of this unit.

Respectfully Submitted;

Grand Jury March-April 2008

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Foreperson