

May-June 2008 Grand Jury Report

We, the Grand Jury for May-June 2008, wish to express our appreciation to Commonwealth's Attorney Lynn Pryor and her staff and for the opportunity to serve on the Grand Jury. They were very informative and helpful during this time.

During our term, we reviewed the May 2008 Primary Elections, and there were no allegations of voter fraud or misconduct. We believe that an increase in pay for poll workers would generate more interest in serving as poll workers and would encourage adequate preparation for an organized election process.

Our service on the Grand Jury enabled us to better understand the crime that law enforcement officers and victims encounter everyday. Our law enforcement officers risk their lives everyday to protect and serve. They are overworked and underpaid. Officers should have partners so they are not facing the dangers of the streets alone, and there should be more K-9 officers to assist in the enforcement of the law, apprehension of suspects and location of drugs.

We heard a number of theft cases, including several where automobiles were stolen and destroyed at salvage yards even before the theft report could be filed and pursued. We believe that there should be waiting periods to allow investigators to check for stolen items, in addition to tougher laws and fines imposed on these salvage yards and those individuals who possess and dispose of stolen property. Repeat offenders should receive the maximum punishment, and the businesses that profit from criminal activity should be shut down. Proof of ownership should be presented and verified, and copies of car titles and driver's licenses or other forms of identification should be kept on file.

There are far too many drug related repeat offenders on our streets free to continue their activities. Our police officers are risking their lives everyday to arrest these criminals that are selling drugs to our Christian County children, and the offenders are only getting a slap on the hand by our court system before they are released to repeat the offense over and over again.

There are also too many repeat offenders of operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, endangering the lives of Christian County residents. They should serve longer sentences, and the courts should impose any sanctions possible to prohibit them from driving again.

We believe that more stringent punishments should be imposed on repeat spouse abuse and child abuse offenders. Ankle monitors should be worn by sexual offenders to keep them from being too close to playgrounds, schools, and other places where our children should be safe.

Are our laws not tough enough or is our justice system too quick to show mercy when the law is broken?

We are all proud residents of Christian County and Kentucky. It is a beautiful and friendly place to live. More needs to be done to keep our streets safe for our children and families. Everyone needs to get involved to make Christian County as safe as it is beautiful.

Foreperson