

GRAND JURY REPORT

As Members of the September-October 2007 Grand Jury, we would like to take a moment and cover some of our concerns. For most of us, it was an eye opening experience. You never really get the full idea of what goes on in your community. After the first couple of sessions of Grand Jury, we got more than most of us really wanted.

The overwhelming number of drug cases seen on a daily basis range from drug paraphernalia to trafficking in methamphetamine, cocaine, or marijuana. We now think twice about our surroundings on travels through town. It's really scary to think that all of this goes on just outside your door. To the law enforcement officers that wake up every day and go back out to the streets to stop these activities, a big thanks is in store. We don't think that there are enough thanks for you.

At times on the Grand Jury, we got cases that were difficult to believe could happen in this small community, such as shootings, stabbings, child pornography, child abuse, high-speed police chases, etc. There was even a member of the Grand Jury who witnessed a case of a motorcycle running from the police. What a small world!

The issue of Juror pay always seems to make its way into this report-\$12.50 per day for our time. For most Jurors, this does not equal to an hours worth of pay at their job. As good citizens who stay out trouble, it is difficult to believe that our time is only worth \$12.50 to the judicial system. When is someone going to care enough to seek higher pay for these good citizens who take time off work to listen and make good decisions regarding all the crime in our community?

On behalf of our four legged law enforcement officers, we the members of this Grand Jury think they should be treated as equals to the human counter part. You train

these dogs for weeks, sometimes months or years. Without these dogs, many of the drug cases we heard would not have surfaced. Why should they not be entitled to the same retirement benefits as the human officer that works alongside the four-legged animal?

On a final note, thanks again to the officers who keep our streets safer from the crime we wish was not an issue. To Lynn Pryor, Commonwealth Attorney and her staff for guiding us in our journey through Grand Jury. Without you, your wisdom of the law and deciphering of all the confusing abbreviations, we would not have made it. Thanks for helping us make this a successful Grand Jury experience.

Foreperson