

Christian County Grand Jury Report

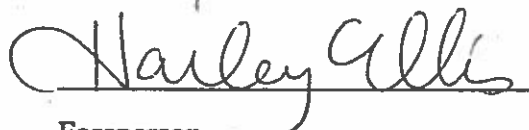
September-October 2016

We, the members of the Christian County Grand Jury for September-October 2016 wish to thank Lynn Pryor, Tara Bozell, Jennifer Love Hightower, Maggie Gigandet, and the rest of the team from the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for their knowledge, wisdom, and insight into the justice system. From our orientation session to each case presented, the process has been well-organized and professional. We are thankful for the opportunity to have served on the Grand Jury and we have learned a great deal from this process. Our thanks also go to Judge John Atkins for his service.

We take this opportunity to thank the various law enforcement agencies who brought carefully prepared and thorough testimony to the Grand Jury. We thank these detectives and officers for their dedicated service to the Hopkinsville-Christian County community. Our eyes have been opened to their vigilance in protecting our community. It is obvious from the testimony of several newer officers from the Hopkinsville Police Department that quality recruiting and training are of the utmost importance to our police department.

Our sincere appreciation goes Lindsey Adams and his team in the investigation and prosecution of those who repeatedly fail to pay court-ordered child support payments. We feel it is a not only a legal, but a moral responsibility to meet a minimum standard of care for one's offspring. We understand that legislation has been proposed by the Kentucky House of Representatives and is currently being considered by the Kentucky Senate to reduce flagrant non-support from felony to misdemeanor status for the purpose of reducing corrections costs. All grand jurors for this session unanimously and vehemently oppose such legislation that will take the teeth out of prosecution for flagrant non-support. From the evidence presented to us in this session, it is documented that when stiff penalties are imposed, including time in jail, the money is able to be collected. If this crime is reclassified as a misdemeanor, the power of extradition is all but eliminated and there is no effective deterrent to making personal choices that fail to meet that most basic obligation to care for one's offspring. We feel this legislation is short-sighted and that our children will be the losers here.

Serving on the Grand Jury has been an eye-opening and memorable experience. Thank you to all who continue to work for justice in Christian County.



Foreperson

Date : 10/21/16