

**GRAND JURY REPORT
JULY – AUGUST 2017**

We, the Grand Jury serving Christian County during July and August 2017, would like to thank Judge Atkins, Lynn Pryor and staff, as well as the officers and detectives for all their hard work and countless days trying to keep our community in order.

As the Grand Jury, we learned and discussed a great deal about the criminal activity taking place in Christian County. One of our greatest concerns include the criminal gang activity and substantial drug trade that seems to be growing in our area. Based on that, we ask why not impose harsher punishments for possession and trafficking of controlled substances? These punishments should include larger fines or extra classes mandatory before being released from incarceration. Maybe that would limit the number of repeat drug offenders. We also wondered about the programs offered to those who are incarcerated. If there were a requirement to finish school or hold a job, maybe they would choose to take a different path rather than repeatedly offending the laws of our Commonwealth.

It was also alarming that what appear to be serious offenders received lighter sentences at times than what was recommended by the prosecutor or jury, as a result of shock probation or parole. For example, it seems unfair for someone who is convicted of murder to reach parole after only 20 years, even if they receive a life sentence. One more noticeable concern was the safety of the public as well as officers and all involved during high speed chases.

In summary, drugs are a large and growing problem, so it seems reasonable to raise the fines and sentences, regardless of whether it involves trafficking or possession. It is obvious that many drug offenders are persistent in their illegal activities. They should be required to complete programs and other requirements while incarcerated, before they are even eligible for parole. We are concerned with the safety and limitations during high speed chases, and would recommend harsher sentencing requirements for all homicide related cases.

We thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve on the Grand Jury.



FOREPERSON
July-August 2017 Grand Jury