

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018 GRAND JURY REPORT

The members of the January – February 2018 Grand Jury would like to thank Judge Atkins and his staff for the opportunity to serve our community and our justice system. We would also like to thank Lynn Pryor and Tara Bozell for all their hard work and for taking time to help us understand the justice system and how it works. Finally, we would like to thank law enforcement officers throughout our county and state for all they do and endure to keep our communities safe.

Being part of the Grand Jury has been an eye opening and concerning experience. Our eyes were opened to the reality of the drug epidemic, and we are all concerned about how it seems to be increasing. Although getting people off the street is good; most serve only a portion of their sentence and go back to the lifestyle they were taken out of. We do not know what the solution is, but we do know the individual must make the decision to change their life and not go back to that lifestyle.

The incidents involving child molestation are of utmost concern as well. When innocence is taken from a child, we believe the perpetrator's punishment should be harsher, because a child will grow up and deal with issues arising from what's been done to them for the rest of their life. Also, a defendant has the right to face his/her accuser in court. Therefore, a child is required to face the person who took their innocence away. They have to look at them face to face and often in close proximity. It is not fair to force a child to face their abuser, putting them through something they didn't deserve and re-victimizing them in Court.

Thank you for this opportunity, thank you for all you do on a daily basis to ensure justice is served, and thank you for all of your hard work to make our communities a better place.



Foreperson



Date