

Jury Commission
Minutes from Meeting 2
September 29, 2011

Attendees: Court Staff Deneen Barrier, County Staff Starlon Padgette, Chair Rob Shoaf, Court Staff Kathy Shuart, Commissioner LiBria Stephens

- I. Minutes from September 16th meeting were approved
- II. Construction of New List for 2012-13
 - A. Starlon summarized the source list received from the State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.
 1. Names on the combined "raw" list received from DMV: 197,097.
 2. Names removed: 11,929 (344 felons + 11,579 who served in prior biennium + 6 duplicates)
 3. Names added: 1,602 jurors deferred from 10/11 biennium into the 2012/13 biennium.
 4. Total on the list at this point: 186,770.
 - B. Starlon distributed three sample lists for the Commissioners to review. Once reviewed, the Commissioners were satisfied that there were very few instances of duplicate names. Those that did appear to be duplicates (e.g., same last name and birth date, but different spelling of first name; same first and last names but different birth date that appeared to be a typographical error) could only be excluded by personal review, and the reviewer would have to use discretion.
 - C. Commissioners confirmed that the following names should be removed from the master list on the next round:
 1. Out of state addresses
 2. Non-Durham County zip codes
 3. Those in our "permanently excused" list
 - D. Commissioners placed no limit on the size of the master list
- III. Other Issues
 - A. Juror Appreciation activities
 1. Discounts from downtown restaurants. This proposal did not come to fruition in 2010-11, as there were some concerns expressed first by the Administrative Office of the Courts, then by the County. All hurdles appear to have been addressed. Commissioners would like to pursue this again, and requested that staff edit last session's letter for consideration at the next meeting.
 2. Recommendation that judges speak to jurors. Commissioners sent letter to all judges holding court in Durham. Judges appreciated the encouragement, and the jurors appreciated the contact. Requested that staff draft another letter for use in the upcoming two-year cycle.

3. Thank-you to the Durham Bar Association. Commissioners sent letter to the DBA last cycle. Wish to do so again. Requested that staff draft letter for consideration.
- B. Summons – Hope to improve upon the map once the new system is in place
 - C. National Change of Address/Updates during the course of the biennium – After some discussion, the Commissioners instructed staff to update the master list twice, once when the new system is installed and once in the middle of the biennium
 - D. Juror Parking when the new facility opens. Jury Commissioners asked staff to draft another letter to the County Commissioners, thanking them for providing parking in the new deck to jurors at no charge
 - E. Jury pool room and deliberation rooms in the new facility – discussion of what’s planned: reading pods; tables like a public library; WIFI; large enough for PD/Ipad; Lockers (at courtrooms?); coffee vendor (new equipment?). Questions about the seating arrangements in the jury deliberation rooms; staff to inquire of architects
 - F. Jury Commissioner responsibilities: does the County provide a stipend to citizens serving as jury commissioners? The Clerk to the Board reported that the County did not pay a stipend in 2009 or 2007. Recollection among the current commissioners and staff was that they did provide a stipend back in 2003 (Ms. Carrington was a commissioner); not sure about 2005.
- IV. Next Meeting – set for Tuesday, November 8, at 9:30 or 1:00, to be confirmed closer to the date. Location: Grand Jury Room, 6th Floor.