



VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

**REPORT OF SPECIAL GRAND JURY
EMPANELLED ON MAY 5, 2021**

Upon the request of Commonwealth's Attorney Zackary Stoots acting as Special Prosecutor, by ORDER of this Court, a Special Grand Jury was empanelled on May 5, 2021, to investigate and report on any conditions that involve or tend to promote criminal activity in Buchanan County, Virginia. This Special Grand Jury was empanelled pursuant to Virginia Code 19.2-206. The Court interviewed and selected nine jurors who were deemed to be unbiased, qualified, and of good character.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

This report is being prepared after the jury convened on numerous dates from May 28, 2021 to May 2, 2022. Our decision was based on careful consideration of the evidence, testimony, and the law, including but not limited to over eighty (80) separate witnesses, hundreds of documents including: Absentee Ballot Applications submitted by Trey Adkins, Ballot Envelope Forms of voters, invoices, hundreds of photographs, and other electronic evidence. Among the witnesses were county employees, Knox District voters, and county contractors and employees.

The following report outlines the Special Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations.

FINDINGS

1. All the criminal acts complained of occurred in Buchanan County, Virginia.

2. Trey Adkins became a candidate for local office in 2011. He was successful in 2011, 2015 and 2019, winning the supervisor seat for the Knox District on each of the three occasions.
3. Buchanan County Registrar Vickie Clevinger testified and explained the absentee voting process and how the Registrar's Office processes absentee voting applications. She explained that Trey Adkins presented more Absentee Application Forms than other candidates for public office. Ms. Clevinger also explained when in receipt of an Absentee Application Form her office records the initials of the person hand delivering the forms. The office then will process the application to insure the applicant is eligible to receive an absentee voter packet.
4. During each election cycle, Mr. Adkins relied on a number of absentee ballot applications and votes. He personally campaigned to a number of homes in the Knox District and in 2019, took hundreds of ballot applications to residents, filled them out, and turned them in to the local Registrar.
5. Throughout our year long investigation, we heard testimony from numerous Knox District voters whose applications were filled out by Mr. Adkins. The majority of those applicants testified that the Reason Code on their applications were incorrect and contained false information, such as fabricated locations and physical disabilities. The false information consisted of traveling to a location outside of Buchanan County, Virginia that the person never intended to travel and had never vocalized the intent to travel on Election Day. Other applications listed the Reason Code as disability for people that were not disabled and Mr. Adkins knew worked full time jobs. Further, several witnesses were so upset by the events surrounding their applications they said they would never vote again.

6. Some witnesses that testified about their Absentee Application Forms provided signatures that did not match the ones on the Forms. Not only did those voters not fill out their forms, but they believed their signatures to be a forgery. These applications were filled out and turned in by Mr. Adkins.
7. In both 2011 and 2019, Mr. Adkins went to several voters' homes and assisted them in filling out their ballots. Every voter testified that he arrived alone. On many occasions, Mr. Adkins took the ballots with him. Ballot Envelope Forms are required to be signed by the voter and a witness. We were presented with numerous Ballot Envelope Forms bearing witness signatures that were never present in the voters' homes. Some of the Ballot Envelope Forms were signed by Sherry Lynn Bailey.
8. We heard testimony and reviewed documents that several Knox District residents had received gravels on their private driveways. Most of these gravels were picked up at the "Red Gym" and were the property of Buchanan County. Gravels were delivered by Knox District Contractor Eugene Cline who testified that he delivered them at the direction of Trey Adkins.
9. County Road Engineer Marcus Stiltner testified about which roads were private or public in the Knox District. He explained the methods that local supervisors use to fix roads, slides, and maintain cemetery roads in Buchanan County. County Administrator Craig Horne testified that the only way gravel should be used on private property is when the county provides gravel to remedy damage that it created.
10. Marcus Stiltner identified a number of roads in question as being private and additional witnesses confirmed that there was no damage, therefore, Mr. Adkins did not have the authority to provide gravel.

CONCLUSIONS

In a republic, our citizens expect the election process to be fair and equal for any candidate. For our election process to be viewed with integrity, fairness must exist for the candidates involved. Trey Adkins violated the trust of the public by placing false statements on Absentee Application Forms and forging and having others forge Ballot Envelope Forms.

Once elected, we expect our elected officials to operate with honesty and transparency. We also expect them to treat all the citizens they serve the same. Further, elected officials cannot treat county property as their own, which was purchased with tax payer dollars, and provide individuals county property for private use.

In good conscience and after considerable deliberation, the Special Grand Jury concludes that the integrity of the election process has been violated and it can only meet its responsibility by indicting the following individuals for various violations of the Virginia Code, more fully set out in the Indictments:

1. Trey Adkins
2. Sherry Lynn Bailey

We the members of the Special Grand Jury believe that the findings of this investigation should be made public and transparent. For that reason, we request that the Court order this Report be unsealed and made available to the public.

SUBMISSION

This, the unanimous Report of the Special Grand Jury, is respectfully submitted.

Dated: May 2, 2022