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GRAND JURY INDICTS EIGHT SHELBY COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES FOR ALLEGED BRIBERY

MEMPHIS, TN – Shelby County District Attorney Bill Gibbons announced Wednesday that the state Grand Jury for Shelby County has indicted eight employees of the Shelby County Clerk's Office for bribery charges stemming from an investigation into allegations that clerks allegedly accepted money from individuals in exchange for registering vehicles without proper documentation.

The Grand Jury returned indictments against the following five clerk's office employees for allegedly accepting a benefit upon agreeing to "register vehicles without the vehicles having gone through inspections required by the City of Memphis or without other proper documentation required to register the vehicle":



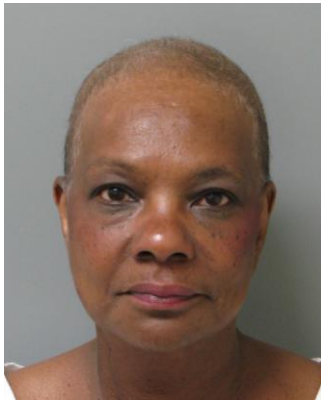
- **Janice Garrett, 52.** The Grand Jury indicted Garrett for three counts of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, Garrett allegedly accepted money from Angelica Tejadaugh on January 11, 2008 and January 15, 2008; and from Barbara Swearngen-Holt on April 29, 2008.

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- **Millicent Rogers, 42.** The Grand Jury indicted Rogers for one count of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, Rogers allegedly accepted money from Barbara Swearengen-Holt on January 3, 2008.

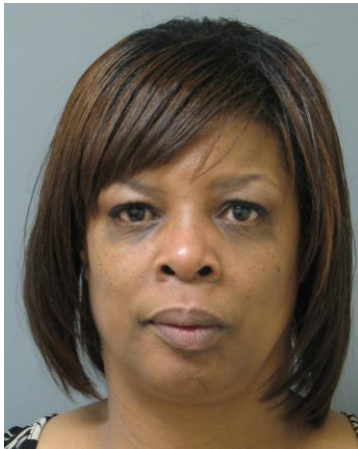


- **Patricia Reid, 55.** The Grand Jury indicted Reid for four counts of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, Reid allegedly accepted money from Barbara Swearengen-Holt on May 3, 2007; and from Angelica Tejedaugh on January 18, 2008, January 22, 2008, and June 12, 2008.

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- **Rita Jones, 43.** The Grand Jury indicted Jones for seven counts of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, Garrett accepted money from Otha Todd on December 16, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 8, 2006, June 1, 2006, July 3, 2006, August 28, 2006, and January 11, 2007.



- **Anita Porter, 48.** The Grand Jury indicted Porter for one count of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, Porter accepted money from Maureen Bowers on October 23, 2008.

The Grand Jury returned indictments against the following three clerk's office employees for allegedly accepting a benefit upon agreeing to "run multiple transactions...as opposed to running a fewer number of transactions at one time":

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- **Seprice Crews, 40.** The Grand Jury indicted Crews for one count of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, Porter accepted money from a representative for Unique Auto Sales on October 24, 2008.



- **Julia Marshall, 42.** The Grand Jury indicted Marshall for one count of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, Marshall accepted money from a representative for Fleet Equipment between August 27 and August 30, 2008.

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- **Darlene McKee, 43.** The Grand Jury indicted McKee for one count of bribery of a public servant. According to the indictment, McKee accepted money through Julia Marshall (also indicted) from a representative for Fleet Equipment between August 27 and August 30, 2008.

Officers arrested the eight defendants Wednesday morning. Each is being held in the Shelby County Jail on \$5,000 bond.

The indictments are part of an ongoing investigation into the Shelby County Clerk's Office conducted by the Memphis Police Department's Organized Crime Unit and the Tennessee Department of Revenue. The investigation remains open and the Grand Jury could return further indictments.

"Public employees are not above the law. It is very disturbing that some public servants believe it is acceptable to be bought or bribed. We intend to hold these individuals accountable," said District Attorney Gibbons. "Bribery of a public servant is a serious charge, and before this ongoing investigation is complete, others could be indicted," he added.

Shelby County Sheriff's Deputies assisted in this investigation and were responsible for arresting the employees.

D.A. Gibbons also noted that Shelby County Clerk Debbie Stamson cooperated fully with the investigation.

Bribery of a public servant is a class B felony, which carries a standard sentence of 8-12 years in prison.

The D.A.'s White Collar Crime Prosecution Unit, headed by Assistant D.A. William Bright, will handle prosecution of these cases.

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The Fugitive Division handled the physical arrests of the clerks in today's roundup.

<u>Defendants Name</u>	<u>Location of Arrest</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Booking #</u>
Patricia Reid	150 Washington (Tag Office)	Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203654
Rita Jones	150 Washington (Tag Office)	Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203652
Millicent Rogers	150 Washington (Tag Office)	Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203651
Seprice Crews	1075 Mullins Station (Tag Office)	Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203649
Anita Porter	1075 Mullins Station(Tag Office)	Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203648
Darlene McKee	7858 Hwy 51 (N)	Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203657 Off
Sick and lives in Tipton Co/ met officers in Shelby Co after phone contact made			
Julia Marshall	6201 Haley (Jail East)	Surrender Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203656
Janice Garrett	3488 Agape (Residence)	Bribery of Public Servant	Booking # 09203645

All have \$5,000.00 bonds. All 8 are in custody. Roundup started at 9:30 am this morning.

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