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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

registration no. 19 B 207 FILM NO. 19.18

JURY COMMISSION'S STATEMENT
OF SOURCES AND PROCEDURES FILED
PURSUANT TO
NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 9

FOR:

BIENNIUM 2020 - 2021



## A. ORGANIZATION § 9-1

1. Appointments

The following Jury Commissioners were appointed for the biennium beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2021. Reba Thomas was appointed on May 20, 2019 by the Honorable Carl Fox, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners on June 17, 2019 appointed Emily Foushee. The Honorable Dana M Hackney, Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court, appointed Larry Cheek on June 18, 2019.

2. Oaths

Oaths of office were administered to the Jury Commissioners by the Tracee H Whitaker, Deputy Clerk, Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court on October 15, 2019.

3. Date of the first Jury Commission meeting

The Jury Commission held its first meeting October 15, 2019, electing Emily Foushee as Chairman. The meeting was held in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court.

#### **B.** AUTHORITY

1. Compliance with the statute

The Jury Commission compiled the jury list in strict accord with the directions provided in Chapter 9 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

2. Electronic data processing

The county utilizes electronic data processing equipment for the function of preparing and maintaining custody of the list of prospective jurors, drawing and summoning panels of jurors, and maintaining records of names of jurors who have served, been excused, been deferred for service, or have been disqualified. Service Commander Software Inc. 228 Hardingwood Dr, Goldsboro NC 27534, has been employed as consultant in this process. The Clerk of Superior Court is responsible for recording records received from the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Voter Registration onto a stand-alone PC system, which is located and maintained in said office. § 20-43.4.

## C. SOURCES § 9-2(b)

The list of registered voters and persons with driver's license records supplied to the county by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to § 20-43.4. There were no other lists used in the preparation of the jury list.

#### D. PROCEDURES

- 1. Preparation of the master jury list § 9-2.
  - a. Number of names to be included was provided by the Clerk of Superior Court. § 9-2(f)]
  - b. Method of Merging Source Lists § 9-2(e)]

The merge of the source lists was completed pursuant to § 20-43.4.

- c. Electronic culling of disqualified persons form the list. § 9-3
  - 1. Persons residing out of state were electronically removed from further consideration based on their mailing address.
  - 2. Based on legal opinion from the Administrative Office of the Courts, no convicted felons were electronically removed.

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- 3. Permanently excused citizens and previously summoned jurors who had been deferred beyond the beginning of the biennium were electronically removed from further consideration, based on name and date of birth, using the database compiled by the office of Clerk of Superior Court.
- 4. Due to wasted mailing costs and lost effort, the jury commission:
  - a. Elected to have the jury program electronically remove from further consideration those citizens whose name, date of birth and address had resulted in an undeliverable summons in the past
  - b. Elected to have the jury program electronically remove from further consideration those citizens whose name, date of birth and address were shown to be non-residents of the county in the past
- 5. Citizens who served as petit jurors during the previous two years or who served a full term of service as grand jurors in the past six years were electronically removed from further consideration, based on name and date of birth, using the database compiled by the office of Clerk of Superior Court.
- d. Selecting names for the list § 9-2 (e); § 9-2(h)
  - 1. The random selection process was authorized by the Jury Commission to be performed by the office of the Clerk of Superior Court as follows:
    - a. The jury commission requested a raw list of 17,000.00 names, which is
    - 2.2 times the number of jurors for the current biennium.
    - b. The computer performed a random selection from the eligible records, bypassing any records that had been electronically culled as stated above.
  - 2. The names on the raw jury list were electronically recorded and/or printed in alphabetical order with birth date, ages and addresses.
- e. Manually culling disqualified persons from the List § 9-3
  - 1. All persons disqualified pursuant to § 9-3 were manually removed at the direction of the Jury Commission. The jury commission also manually checked the electronic or printed raw list for any duplicates that may have been missed by the previous automation process. Any such duplicates were electronically removed.
  - 2. The Jury Commission applied all statutory qualifications as prescribed to the best of its ability.
  - 3. After all disqualified to serve were removed, there remained a total of 16,470 names on the final list, which is 2.2 times the number of jurors for the current biennium.
- 2. Custody of the Jury List § 9-4
  - a. The Master List as completed on 11/7/2019 shall be maintained on the computer.

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- b. The alphabetized list is kept under lock and key in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court, but the list is available for public inspection during regular office hours.
- c. Access to the computer file containing this list is prohibited to all but authorized personnel, and their access is prohibited except to the extent necessary to maintain and operate the system. "Authorized personnel" shall be those persons authorized by the Clerk of Superior Court and/or the Jury Commission. After the Master Jury List is complete, a back-up computer file will be prepared and stored in a secure place. This file will be periodically updated.
- 3. Maintenance of the jury list. The jury list will be updated as to juror service records on the jury file electronically by authorized personnel in a timely manner.

# E. CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Authority.

The Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court is hereby directed and authorized, by the Jury Commission; to carry out the procedures outlined herein. Said Clerk of Superior Court is also authorized to designate such other personnel or members of the Clerk's staff, as deemed necessary to carry out the procedures outlined herein.

### F. ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Appointments
- 2. Oaths
- 3. Procedures for performing jury selection functions by electronic data-processing equipment.

We further certify that all the statutory qualifications were applied and that the list was compiled in strict accord with statutory directions and utterly without partiality, favoritism, or other unconstitutional factors.

\_\_\_\_ Jury Commissioner, Chair

Jury Commissioner

Jury Commissioner

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