

COPY

NO:

STATE OF TENNESSEE

VS:

PAUL THOMAS

Indictment for

OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT  
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WITNESSES:

Summon for State  
Bobbie Blair

A TRUE BILL

SC P. [Signature]  
Foreman of the Grand Jury

06 MAY 2024  
Date

Stacey B. Edmonson  
Prosecutor-Pro Tem

Filed 5-6-2024  
Cynthia Flowers, Clerk  
B. [Signature]

Date Indictment Returned: MAY 06, 2024

CIRCUIT COURT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE OF TENNESSEE, GIBSON COUNTY  
CIRCUIT COURT**

**COUNT 1  
OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Anthony Bolding, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly profit or benefit for personal gain from the labor of Anthony Bolding, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 2  
OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Ronald Cravens, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly profit or benefit for personal gain from the labor of Ronald Cravens, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 3  
OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Jonathan Forrest, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly profit or benefit for personal gain from the labor of Jonathan Forrest, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 4**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Mark Smith, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly profit or benefit for personal gain from the labor of Mark Smith, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 5**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of William Vestal, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly profit or benefit for personal gain from the labor of William Vestal, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 6**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Jeffrey Wyke, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly profit or benefit for personal gain from the labor of Jeffrey Wyke, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 7**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Anthony Bolding, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly provide profit or benefit to Alliance Group, LLC, a business partially owned or wholly owned by Paul Thomas, from the labor of Anthony Bolding, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 8**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Ronald Cravens, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly provide profit or benefit to Alliance Group, LLC, a business partially owned or wholly owned by Paul Thomas, from the labor of Ronald Cravens, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 9**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Jonathan Forrest, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly provide profit or benefit to Alliance Group, LLC, a business partially owned or wholly owned by Paul Thomas, from the labor of Jonathan Forrest, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 10**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Mark Smith, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly provide profit or benefit to Alliance Group, LLC, a business partially owned or wholly owned by Paul Thomas, from the labor of Mark Smith, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 11**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of William Vestal, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly provide profit or benefit to Alliance Group, LLC, a business partially owned or wholly owned by Paul Thomas, from the labor of William Vestal, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 12**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: employed, required or otherwise used the labor of Jeffrey Wyke, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, so as to directly or indirectly provide profit or benefit to Alliance Group, LLC, a business partially owned or wholly owned by Paul Thomas, from the labor of Jeffrey Wyke, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 13**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: failed to see that Anthony Bolding, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, was properly guarded to prevent escape as required in Tennessee Code Annotated 41-2-109, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 14**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: failed to see that Ronald Cravens, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, was properly guarded to prevent escape as required in Tennessee Code Annotated 41-2-109, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 15**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: failed to see that Jonathan Forrest, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, was properly guarded to prevent escape as required in Tennessee Code Annotated 41-2-109, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 16**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: failed to see that Mark Smith, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, was properly guarded to prevent escape as required in Tennessee Code Annotated 41-2-109, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 17**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: failed to see that William Vestal, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, was properly guarded to prevent escape as required in Tennessee Code Annotated 41-2-109, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

**COUNT 18**  
**OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT**

The Grand Jurors for Gibson County, Tennessee, duly impaneled and sworn, upon their oath, present that **PAUL THOMAS**, by and through his capacity as Gibson County Sheriff, heretofore, to-wit, between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, before the finding of this presentment, in said County and State, did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously commit an act relating to the public servant's office or employment that constitutes an unauthorized exercise of official power, to wit: failed to see that Jeffrey Wyke, an inmate under the care and custody of Paul Thomas, was properly guarded to prevent escape as required in Tennessee Code Annotated 41-2-109, in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-402, a class E felony, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee.

  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PRO TEM

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN  
TRENTON, GIBSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

IN RE: GIBSON COUNTY SHERIFF

SECOND ORDER APPOINTING DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PRO TEM

On October 3, 2022, this Honorable Court entered an Order allowing District Attorney General, Frederick Agee, and his office voluntarily recuse due to conflict in the above-styled matter and appointing a pro tempore District Attorney General. The Order entered on October 3, 2022, appointed District Attorney General Kim R. Helper of the Twenty-First Judicial District to handle this matter. In March 2023, District Attorney General Kim R. Helper passed away unexpectedly. In May 2023, Stacey B. Edmonson was appointed District Attorney General of the Twenty-First Judicial District. General Edmonson was employed as the Deputy District Attorney General under General Helper's tenure and was originally assigned by General Helper to handle the above-styled matter.

The Office of the District Attorney General for the Twenty-First Judicial District was appointed by the Executive Director of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference and District Attorney General Stacey B. Edmonson still accepts this appointment as District Attorney General pro tempore pursuant to the previous appointment.

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that the Office of the District Attorney General for the Twenty-First Judicial District, and District Attorney General, Stacey B. Edmonson, and/or her assigned assistant district attorneys, are hereby appointed as the District Attorney General Pro Tempore in this matter for the purpose of conducting a specific criminal investigative and prosecutorial functions of the Gibson County Sheriff's Department's work

Filed 5-9-2024 At 11:57 AM  
By Cynthia Flowers, Clerk  
D.C.




release program, including grand jury proceedings, and shall serve until the conclusion of the case pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated 8-7-106.

Entered this the 6th day of May, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HONORABLE  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey B. Edmonson, 021163  
District Attorney General  
Twenty-First Judicial District  
1441 New Hwy 96, Ste. 2, Box 312  
Franklin, TN 37064  
sbedmonson@tndagc.org