



BRENDA S. WEAVER
CHIEF JUDGE

SUPERIOR COURTS
APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
POST OFFICE BOX 545
JASPER, GEORGIA 30143

(706) 253-8729
FAX (706) 253-8734



PICKENS
GILMER
AND FANNIN COUNTIES

August 4, 2016

Mr. Robert Jones, Chairman
Mr. Jerry Barnes, West Commissioner
Ms. Becky Denney, East Commissioner
Pickens County Board of Commissioners
1266 East Church Street
Jasper, Georgia 30143

Mr. Charlie Paris, Chairman
Mr. Dallas H. Miller, Post 1 Commissioner
Mr. Travis Couch, Post 2 Commissioner
Gilmer County Board of Commissioners
1 Broad Street, Suite 106
Ellijay, Georgia 30540

Mr. William Simonds, Chairman
Mr. Earl Johnson, Post 1 Commissioner
Mr. Larry Joe Sosebee, Post 2 Commissioner
Fannin County Board of Commissioners
400 West Main Street, Suite 100
Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513

Dear Commissioners:

In recent weeks, allegations have been made by certain individuals alleging that our circuit is operating a private probation company. Of course, this allegation is false. Our county probation program was created in 1998 when Judge Milam was our Chief Judge and Roger Queen served as our District Attorney. At that time, I served as the second Superior Court Judge in the circuit, having been appointed in 1996. The program became a certified law enforcement agency in 2002 and remains so today. It is also under the supervision and monitoring of the Georgia Department of Community Supervision.

Some of you have been commissioners for a long period of time and are familiar with the county probation program but some of you are fairly new. For this reason, I have attached an

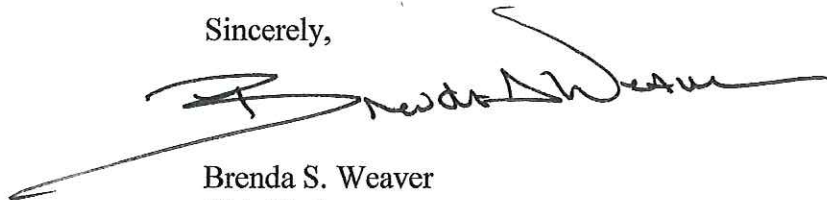
updated narrative which describes the history of the Appalachian Pretrial and Probation Program. I also included a copy of the letter from POST stating we are a certified law enforcement agency and a listing from the Georgia Department of Community Supervision which lists all of the private and governmental misdemeanor probation programs in Georgia. Our circuit's program is listed under government. I have included copies of other documents for your review.

If you have any questions after reading the narrative, please feel free to contact me personally or Chief Probation Officer April Van Alstine. Ms. Van Alstine has been a certified law enforcement officer for approximately six years and previously worked for the Pickens County Sheriff's Department. In addition, Larry Clemmons and Julie Panter have been involved with the program for over 15 years and can certainly answer any questions you may have. They are also both certified law enforcement officers and reside in Fannin County.

I hope that each one of you will be able to attend our next Accountability Courts graduation which is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 6:00pm at the First Baptist Church in Ellijay, Georgia.

As always, thank you for supporting the programs and the accountability courts that we operate in our circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda S. Weaver", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Brenda S. Weaver
Chief Judge
Appalachian Judicial Circuit