

Government of the District of Columbia
Executive Office of the Mayor



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Fenty Presents Timeline of District Government Contact with Jacks Family
Outlines initial efforts to ensure child welfare accountability

Washington, DC—Following a critical case review by City Administrator Dan Tangherlini and Interim Attorney General Peter Nickles, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty laid out a timeline of the District government’s case history with members of the family of Banita Jacks. Jacks was arrested on January 9 in connection with the discovery of four bodies, preliminarily identified as her daughters, in her Southeast Washington home.

The daughters of Ms. Jacks have been identified as Brittany Jacks, 17, Tatiana Jacks, 11, N’Kia Fogle, 6, and Aja Fogle, 5. The family had contact with DC government agencies dating back to December 2005. Initial review determines five District agencies had contact with the family of Banita Jacks:

- Child and Family Services Agency
- DC Public Schools
- Metropolitan Police Department
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Health

A full and formal review continues to be conducted by the City Administrator and the Attorney General offices, and they have been instructed by Mayor Fenty to take appropriate personnel action with any employees responsible for failures in the case, to include employment termination.

“While the loss of any life is tragic, this case is particularly devastating,” said Mayor Fenty. “We will not rest until we have done everything possible to make sure that policies and procedures are in place to make sure that something like this never happens again.”

Mayor Fenty committed to the following actions to address issues raised in this case:

- Review every CFSA case closed with a status of “incomplete” to ensure everything possible was done to resolve the case. The Jacks’ case was deemed incomplete and closed without confirmation that the family had left the jurisdiction.
- Revamp policies for CFSA social workers regarding cases work completion

- Establish system that facilitates better tracking and monitoring of “home school” families
- Strengthen the ability to track children as they move from school to school within DCPS and Public Charter Schools by fully integrating and implementing well as those that leave District schools through the longitudinal data warehouse currently being developed
- The City Administrator and Attorney General will meet with the Office of the Inspector General to present all the facts gathered and request a full inquiry by the office.

Timeline for DC Government Contact with the Jacks/Fogel Family

December 6, 2005 - DCHA:

Banita Jacks applies for housing assistance on December 6, 2005. At the time of her application, she listed her address as 933 – 3rd Street, N.W. She listed Nathaniel Fogel as her spouse and four female children. It appears that she had never been an active participant in any DCHA housing program.

December 14, 2005 – DHS:

The Jacks/Fogel family entered DC General Hypothermia Shelter on 12-14-05 and exited on 4-9-06. This appeared to have been the family's first and only use of the shelter system. Their destination upon exiting shelter was to live with family/friends. Ms. Jacks entered shelter with her significant other-Nathaniel Fogel and 4 daughters.

December 21, 2005 – DHS:

The Jacks/Fogel family applies for TANF, Medicaid, and Food Stamp and gives 1900 Mass Ave, SE (DC General Hypothermia Shelter) as their address.

January 13, 2006 – DCPS:

Brittany Jacks enrolls at Eastern High School.

January 18, 2006 – DCPS:

Tatianna Jacks enrolls at Watkins Elementary School.

April 9, 2006 – DHS:

The Jacks/Fogel Family leaves DC General Hypothermia Shelter on 4-9-06 to “live with family and friends.”

June 16, 2006 - DOH:

Banita Jacks has a behavioral health Medicaid visit.

July 12, 2006 – CFSA/DOH:

CFSA receives report from a nurse at the family's Medicaid health plan that Mr. Fogel checked himself out of George Washington Hospital where he was apparently receiving treatment for leukemia. Both parents are said to have substance abuse issues and the family is reportedly living in a van. The caller could not provide an address, and CFSA could not follow-up on the inquiry.

August 30, 2006 – Charter School Board:

Brittany Jacks enrolls at Booker T. Washington PCS.

September 5, 2006 - DCPS:

Aja Fogel and Tatianna Jacks enroll at Meridian PCS.

September 6, 2006 - DOH:

Tatianna Jacks and Aja Fogel have a well child Medicaid visit.

September 20, 2006 - DOH:

N'Kiah Fogel has a well child Medicaid visit.

October 5, 2006 - DCPS:

N'Kiah Fogel enroll at Meridian PCS.

November 30, 2006 – DHS:

The Jacks/Fogel family Food Stamp benefits were terminated on 11/30/06 for failure to provide requested information. Failure to recertify for food stamps results in an automatic systems termination every six months.

December 7, 2006 - DOH:

The Medicaid health plan spoke to Banita Jacks on the phone to encourage her to come in for care.

January 14, 2007- MPD

Banita Jackson arrested by MPD for driving an unregistered vehicle, improper use of tags, and failure to exhibit permit.

February 19, 2007:

Nathaniel Fogel died in a hospice in Maryland.

March 3, 2007 – Charter School Board:

Brittany Jacks last attends Booker T. Washington PCS.

March 21, 2007 – Charter School Board:

Tatianna Jacks, N'Kiah Fogel and Aja Fogel are unenrolled from Meridian PCS.

April 27, 2007 – CFSA:

A social worker at Booker T. Washington PCS called CFSA hotline to report an “educational neglect” case because the Brittany Jacks missed 33 days of school and hadn't been to school since March 2, 2007. Booker T. Washington social workers attempts to visit home, but mother would not let her in.

April 28, 2007 – CFSA:

CFSA's social worker attempted to contact the reporter and was informed by recorded message that the reporter was not available.

CFSA social worker visited the home of Ms. Banita Jacks (4249 6th Street SE) to complete an initial assessment. No one answered the door and the social worker left written information requesting client to contact the social worker.

April 30, 2007 – Charter School Board/MPD/CFSA:

Booker T. Washington social worker visits Jacks home again and speaks with Banita Jacks, but is denied entry. She calls MPD to come to home and alerts CFSA social worker and reported that the mother appeared to have mental health issues and was possibly holding Brittany hostage by refusing to allow her to attend school.

MPD officers visit home of Ms. Jacks and report to CFSA social worker. Officer reported that he visited the home and saw the children at home. According to the Officer, the children appeared to be well and healthy. When the Officer inquired why the children were not in school, Ms. Jacks informed him that the children were being home schooled. Jacks told officers that without warrant, MPD could not enter.

The Officer informed her of the proper procedure for home schooling children in the District of Columbia. The Officer reported that he observed books that Ms. Jacks had for the children.

May 1, 2007 – CFSA/MPD:

CFSA social worker along with Police Officer attempted to reenter the home; however, after repeated knocks by the Officer, no one answered.

May 2, 2007 – CFSA:

The social worker attempted a third time to contact Ms. Banita Jacks and no one answered.

The social worker confirmed with Penn Attendance Intervention Center that the children were not currently enrolled in DCPS.

May 4, 2007 – MPD:

Officer Scott made contact with Penn Attendance Intervention Center to inquiry if Penn Center could intervene.

May 5, 2007 – CFSA/DCPS:

CFSA social worker contacted DCPS to inquire about the home schooling policy. He was informed that DC has no law governing home schooling. He stated that all a parent had to do is to request a form from their school. DCPS will then authorize the parent to proceed with home schooling.

May 11, 2007 – CFSA:

The CFSA social worker completed a referral to the Diligent Search Office to locate the Jacks family.

May 16, 2007 – CFSA:

The CFSA Diligent Search Office reports an address that was used by Banita Jacks of an individual they believed to be a relative in Waldorf, MD.

The social worker wrote to Charles County after first speaking to an intake person and subsequently confirmed that Charles County also attempted to visit the family and were unable to contact them.

The social worker submitted for case closure on May 16, 2007, and the Supervisor approved closure on May 16, 2007, based information received from Diligent Search Office, which indicated that the family was believed to have moved out of jurisdiction.

June 13, 2007 – Charter School Board:

Brittany Jacks is unenrolled from Booker T. Washington PCS.

June 14, 2007 – CFSA:

Received letter from Charles County child welfare restating attempt to locate but was unable to locate the family.

October 31, 2007 – DHS:

The Jacks/Fogel Family TANF benefit terminated 10/31/07 for failure to recertify. All benefits on the EBT card have been exhausted. TANF recertification is annual but the termination requires worker intervention.

January 2008

The Jacks family is enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid recertification is 12 months and is extended for four months beyond the termination date, unless the customer dies, moves out of the District, or voluntarily withdraws from the program.

No known contact with DMH, APRA, DYRS, DHS/EEAC.