

From: [REDACTED]
To: Alicia Evans
Date: Monday, November 24, 2008 1:06:18 PM
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Good Afternoon Ms. Nixon,

I want you to know that we were very disappointed with the judge's ruling, and believe it or not, Judge Cunningham asked to hear my testimony as to our thoughts on reunification. I told the DHS attorney prior to court that I would be unable to offer testimony supporting reunification, and that she'd have to do most of the talking if we were unable to proceed with the termination hearing. The legal department knows how difficult this case has been, and that there was no way the social work team would be able to say all that much in favor of reunification at the hearing. The judge also knew that, and I think that was why he asked for my testimony. So I told him in no uncertain terms that we don't believe it is in Khalil's best interest to be reunified with his birth parents for many reasons, the main reason being that Khalil has been with you since birth, and is now calling you and your husband 'Mommy' and 'Daddy'. There is no denying the strong bond Khalil shares with you and your husband. Judge Cunningham assured me that he understood where I was coming from, but that there is no legal standard to pursue adoption at this point.

As we've discussed on many occasions, the Child Welfare System and Legal system are often times adversarial at best. However, in all fairness, Judge Cunningham's hands were really tied in this situation. If he had supported terminating the parents' rights at the last court date, it's highly likely that his ruling would be overturned on appeal.

The bottom line is that no matter how strongly we feel about pursuing adoption, the fact remains that we have no legal grounds to justify ruling out adoption at this point. We offer our most heartfelt apologies that the goal has been switched back to reunification. I sincerely hope that you and Khalil's biological parents are able to mend your relationship so that your family is able to remain a part of Khalil's life as we work toward reunification.

Just so you know, I came out to your home the day after the hearing to discuss what had transpired at court in person, but no one answered at the door when I arrived. I called Susan from Delta once I returned to the office, and she told me that she had already filled you in on the court proceedings by phone. I had really wanted to talk to you about this in person as it just didn't feel right to inform you of such a devastating court ruling by phone. I am sorry that this ordeal has dragged on for so long, and I wish there was more that I could do to keep Khalil in your care, but there simply isn't. So that being said, I am asking for your cooperation so that we can try to make this transition as smooth as possible for Khalil and your family as we work toward reunification.

Sincerely,
Jessica Campbell
DHS Social Worker
[REDACTED]

Alicia Evans [REDACTED]

11/21/2008 03:50 PM

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Allcia Evans [REDACTED]

To [REDACTED]

11/21/2008 03:50 PM

[REDACTED]

cc [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject

Of course Ms. Nixon...I wish there was more I could do to make this easier. I don't want to discourage you from emailing anyone here that you'd like to though. Email the mayor if you feel inclined. Really I mean that... Maybe the powers that be need to hear from caregivers like yourself who are completely vested in a child's life, and are experiencing the reality of how devastating experiences like this are for the families, and how many people are effected. Irreparable damage is done to our families and our children. It's really unfair. The child welfare system needs a great deal of improvement, and sometimes things need to be shaken up for really meaningful change to follow. So like I said, feel free to email or write letters to anyone you see fit...You never know, something may come of it.

I'm sorry you didn't receive the letter...I'll send out another copy to you. Guess I could email it to you as well.

I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving. I'll keep your family in my thoughts and prayers :)

Best Wishes,
Jessica

Allcia Evans [REDACTED]

To [REDACTED]

11/22/2008 08:05 PM

cc [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Khali's unification

Hi Jessica

Thank you for responding to me. I read both messages. I understand and I am in such a state that I find myself not being able to function almost. I am keeping it together for Khali and trying to be compliant through all of this but I can't sit back and watch what is happening to him. I almost lost it when I dropped him off today because he grabbed the back of my legs and didn't want me to leave. I assured him I would be back and when I returned, he came to me with a big smile on his face and wouldn't take his eyes off me while his father dressed him. He was excited to see my mom, his Mimi, and on the ride home he kept singing "mommy, mommy, mommy..." and I joined by singing "Lil lil, Lil lil, Lil lil...". He was in a better mood today but I think it was due to the fact that he expected me to come this time. Just like when he started his visits before, he was agitated, angry and sad the first time but he realized I would not leave him with them for too long anymore. There is nothing we can do but wait and PRAY that things will work out for whats best for him, not them. Thanks again and take care. By the way, I never got the letter for daycare. Have a nice day and I hope to hear from you soon.

Allcia Nixon

"Show me your friends and I'll tell you who you are."

"The Shortest Distance between a Problem and it's Solution is the Distance between your Knees and the Floor. The one who Kneels to Allah (Azzwaja!) can Stand Up to Anything."