

# NEWS



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## MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Michael A. Nutter, Mayor  
Douglas I. Oliver, Press Secretary

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### STATEMENT FROM MAYOR NUTTER

*Philadelphia, July 31, 2008* – Mayor Michael A. Nutter has issued the following statement:

I received a briefing today from the District Attorney on the charges that have been brought in the tragic case of the death of Danieal Kelly.

I am deeply saddened and outraged at the events that are described in the Grand Jury Report that was released today. The treatment that Danieal Kelly endured was utterly reprehensible and I condemn those responsible in the strongest possible terms. These individuals must be dealt with in the strongest possible legal manner.

The circumstances of this child's death are detailed in the report and the District Attorney has this morning laid charges against a number of individuals involved in the case.

I am shocked and outraged by allegations that DHS employees refused to perform their duties, neglected Danieal's case, failed to check on her condition, and falsified reports to say that they had done so. I also condemn the behavior of her parents, private organizations and any other entity or individual that was involved in this incident.

As a result of Danieal's death, a blue ribbon Child Welfare Review Panel was formed in November 2006 to investigate. On May 31, 2007, the Panel issued a blueprint for DHS reform, and a Community Oversight Board was established to oversee the implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

Immediately after taking office in January this year I signed an Executive Order that reconstituted and strengthened the Community Oversight Board, chaired by Carol Spigner, to monitor DHS' progress and make any additional recommendations.

The Panel's recommendations are being implemented and the new DHS Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose and I remain committed to ensuring that this reform continues.

Given the information contained in the Grand Jury report, we are taking the following actions. Effective today,

DHS Commissioner Ambrose has suspended the two DHS employees who have been charged with crimes, and Deputy Mayor and Health Commissioner Donald Schwarz has suspended former Acting Health Commissioner Carmen Paris. After further reviewing the Grand Jury Report, we will promptly take any other necessary and appropriate actions.

We recognize that today's developments will take us one step further in the pursuit of justice for Danieal Kelly. We are more determined than ever to make the changes necessary to ensuring that such a case does not happen again.

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