

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH-ADOPTION

EX PARTE IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION OF

ADOPTION NUMBER A-638-12

Z.H. and A.L.H.

FOR ADOPTION

Hezekiah Turnkey

Related No. A-639-12

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

PART I

The District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), having received an Order of Reference, issued on February 1, 2012, to make an investigation in connection with the petition of Ziggy Hanson and Abigail Louise Hanson to adopt Hezekiah Turnkey, pursuant to Section 16-307 of the District of Columbia Code, makes the following report:

1. The allegations of the petition are true except that the adoptee's full name according to his birth certificate is Hezekiah Lamar Turnkey.
2. The adoptee, a eight-year-old male, is sought in adoption by Ziggy Hanson and Abigail Louise Hanson, who are unrelated caretakers. The adoptee owns no assets/property.
3. Placement Date: July 26, 2011
4. Type of Placement: Traditional Adoption

ADOPTEE'S NAME: **Hezekiah Lamar Turnkey**

Sex: Male

Date of Birth: November 26, 2004

Place of Birth: District of Columbia

Birth Certificate Number: 108-08-014111

Neglect Jacket Number: N-521-09

Social File Number: 08-JSF-6041

Legal Status: Committed Relinquished Non-Ward Other
 Committed After TPR Committed After Waiver of Consents

JURISDICTION: (D.C. CODE § 16-301(b)) (Check One)

1. Petitioner was a legal resident of D.C. when petition filed of petition; OR
2. Petitioner was an actual resident of D.C. for one year or more immediately preceding filing (state length of residence); OR
3. Prospective adoptee is in the legal care, custody or control of the Mayor or child placing agency licensed under the laws of the District of Columbia, Agency: D.C. Child and Family Services Agency.

CONSENT (NON-PARENTAL):

- Signed and Acknowledged Consent of Adoptee, if age 14 years or older.
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (b)(1))
- Signed and Acknowledged Consent of court appointed guardian.
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (b)(2)(c))
- Consent of the Child & Family Services Agency or the licensed child placing agency.
Agency: D.C. Child and Family Services Agency D.C. Code § 16-304 (a)
- Non-parental consent is not required.

COMMENTS:

The Consent of the Child and Family Services Agency is attached to the Report and Recommendation. The consent of the court appointed guardian is on file with the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

BIRTH MOTHER'S NAME: Jasmine Lorraine Turnkey

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Unknown

- Parental Rights Terminated. Date: _____
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (b)(2)(D))
- Parental Rights Relinquished. Date: _____ and No: _____
(D.C. Code § 32-1007 (a)),
- Deceased (verified). Death Certificate No: _____
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (b)(2)(B))
- Signed and Acknowledged Consent to Adoption. Date: July 29, 2012
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (b)(2))

- Has signed an Affidavit denying paternity.
- Opposes the adoption.
- Refuses to sign consent relinquishment.
- Refuses to disclose any information regarding the birth father.
(29 DCMR 1631).
- Provided an affidavit regarding birth father and his whereabouts (known or unknown) (29 DCMR 1631). If unknown, you must note in the comment section, a summary of agency's efforts to determine identity.
- Proof of notice of adoption as directed by the court has been provided at the last known address or by alternative service. (29 DCMR 1629)
- Diligent Search has been completed, but birth mother has not been located; in addition what specific efforts have been made to identify and locate the birth mother, if the birth mother's identify or location is unknown. (Note in comment section)
- Birth mother's last known address: 5319 Eldridge Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20019
- Affidavit by the reporting agency's social worker on what funds have been paid to or on behalf of a birth mother by either the agency or the prospective adoptive parents is attached.

COMMENTS:

On July 29, 2011, the adoptee's birth mother consented to the adoption of the adoptee by the petitioners. Her consent was signed and notarized in the presence of her attorney, and is on file with the Court.

BIRTH FATHER'S NAME: Henry Maurice Price

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Unknown

- Parental Rights Terminated. Date: _____
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (a)) (Attach certified copy of court order terminating parental rights.)
- Parental Rights Relinquished Date: _____ and No: _____
(D.C. Code § 32-1007 (a) or attach the original of out-of-state relinquishment or certified copy of appropriate out-of-state order.
- Deceased (verified). Death Certificate No: _____
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (b)(2)(B))
- Signed and Acknowledged Consent to Adoption. Date: _____
(D.C. Code § 16-304 (b)(2))

- Has signed an affidavit denying paternity.
- Opposes the adoption.
- Refuses to sign consent relinquishment.
Reason a consent has not been executed. (Note in comment section)
- Proof of notice of adoption as directed by the court has been provided at the last known address or by alternative service. (29 DCMR 1631)
- Diligent Search has been completed, but b specific efforts have been made to identify and locate the birth father, if the birth father's identity or location is unknown.
- Birth father's last known address: 11320 Pearson Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020
- Affidavit by the reporting agency's social worker on what funds have been paid to or on behalf of a birth mother by either the agency or the prospective adoptive parents is attached.

COMMENTS:

A Show Cause Hearing was held on July 29, 2012, before Magistrate Judge Pamela Thomas. Although the birth father did not appear at the hearing, testimonies were heard. Consequently, the Court issued a Short Order on July 29, 2012, waiving the birth father's right to consent to the adoption of the adoptee.

OTHER COURT ACTION REGARDING ADOPTEE (Last Five (5) Years)

The adoptee has been involved in a neglect matter before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia since 2009 (N-521-09; SF # 08-JSF-6041). Review hearings are held in the neglect matter every six months before Magistrate Judge Pamela Thomas.

AGENCY SEARCH (Last Five (5) Years)

The birth mother's whereabouts have been known since this case has been involved with the CFSA. Diligent search efforts were not needed to locate her whereabouts.

The adoptee's birth father is Henry Maurice Price. His whereabouts were known to the agency when the birth family became known to the CFSA in 2009. His whereabouts became unknown from January 23, 2010 to May 11, 2012. As a result diligent search efforts were conducted through the CFSA's Diligent Search Unit. The birth father was located on May 11, 2012, at 11320 Pearson Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20020.

On May 11, 2012, Wanda Frank, CFSA Diligent Search Investigator, served the birth father with a Copy of Notice to Father of Pending Adoption Proceeding and Order to Show Cause, issued by the Honorable Carol Dalton and a Copy of Summons and Order Directing Appearance requesting that the birth father appear before Magistrate Judge Pamela Thomas on February 20, 2012, at 1:00 p.m.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH-ADOPTION**

**EX PARTE IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION OF**

ADOPTION NUMBER: A-638-12

**Z. H. and A.L.H.
FOR ADOPTION**

RELATED NO.: A-639-12

Hezekiah Turnkey

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
PART II**

COMPETING ADOPTIONS:

There are no competing petitions in this matter.

ADOPTION PETITIONS FOR SIBLINGS:

Adoption No: 639-12 Social Worker: Francis Baldwin Agency: CFSA

PETITIONERS' CLEARANCES, MEDICAL AND MILITARY REGISTRY REPORTS:

	Petitioner (1)		Petitioner (2)
Name:	<u>Ziggy Hanson</u>	Name:	<u>Abigail Louise Hanson</u>
DOB:	<u>August 1, 1964</u>	DOB:	<u>June 29, 1968</u>
Address:	<u>308 Clemson Street.</u> <u>Clinton, Maryland 20764</u>	Address:	<u>308 Clemson Street</u> <u>Clinton, Maryland 20764</u>
Gender:	<u>Male</u>	Gender:	<u>Female</u>

Petitioner (1)		Petitioner (2)
<u>January 27, 2012-DC</u> <u>February 15, 2012 -MD</u>	Child Protection Registry Clearance{s} have been received in all states where the petitioners have lived in the last ten (10) years. (29 DC MR1620.5{q})	<u>January 27, 2012-DC</u> <u>February 5, 2012-MD</u>
<u>March 29, 2011-DC</u> <u>July 30, 2011-MD</u>	Police clearance received. (29 DCMR 1620.5(q))	<u>March 27, 2011-DC</u> <u>July 12, 2011-MD</u>
<u>April 2, 2011</u>	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) report received.	<u>April 10, 2011</u>
<u>November 3, 2012</u>	Medical Report Received (29 DCMR 1620.5 (r))	<u>November 3, 2012</u>
<u>N/A</u>	Military Check	<u>N/A</u>

COMMENTS:

The petitioners have lived in the state of Maryland since February 1, 2011. Prior to then, they resided in the District of Columbia. The petitioners have continuously worked in the District of Columbia since 2000.

District of Columbia Child Protection Registry clearances were received on behalf of petitioners Z.H. and A.L.H. on January 27, 2012. Maryland Child Protection Registry clearances were received on behalf of petitioners Z.H. and A.L.H. on February 15, 2012, and February 5, 2012, respectively. The petitioners have no history of child abuse, neglect or maltreatment.

Police clearances were received from the District of Columbia and the state of Maryland on behalf of petitioner Z.H. on March 29, 2011 and July 30, 2011, respectively. Petitioner Z.H. also completed a FBI clearance, dated April 2, 2011. No criminal history was noted for petitioner Z.H.

Petitioner A.L.H. completed police clearances from the District of Columbia and the state of Maryland on March 27, 2011 and July 12, 2011, respectively. She also completed a FBI clearance, dated April 10, 2011. No criminal history is noted for petitioner A.L.H.

Petitioners Z.H. and A.L.H. completed physical examinations on November 3, 2012. Petitioner Z.H. was examined by Roland Carmichael, M.D., whose practice is located at 6211 5th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Petitioner Z.H. is diagnosed with hypertension and is prescribed 10mg, daily of Lipropensil. He is deemed to be in good health and free of communicable disease. Petitioner A.L.H. was examined by Brenda Rice, M.D., whose practice is located at 112 Georgia

Avenue, N.W., 20005. Petitioner A.L.H. is deemed to be in good health and free of communicable disease.

OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS' CLEARANCES AND MEDICAL REPORTS

Household Member (1)		Household Member (2)
Name: <u>Hezekiah Lamar Turnkey</u>		Name: <u>Evelyn Turnkey</u>
DOB: <u>November 26, 2004</u>		DOB: <u>August 10, 2008</u>
Relationship: <u>Adoptee</u>		Relationship: <u>Adoptee's sister/foster child</u>
Gender: <u>Male</u>		Gender: <u>Female</u>
<u>N/A</u>	Child Protection Registry Clearance{s} have been received in all states where household members have lived in the last ten (10) years. (29 DC MR1620.5{q})	<u>N/A</u>
<u>N/A</u>	Police clearance received. (29 DCMR 1620.5(q))	<u>N/A</u>
<u>N/A</u>	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) report received.	<u>N/A</u>
<u>June 23, 2012</u>	Medical Report Received (29 DCMR 1620.5 (r))	<u>November 9, 2012</u>
<u>N/A</u>	Military Check, if applicable.	<u>N/A</u>

COMMENTS:

The adoptee and his sister, Evelyn Turnkey, are under the age of eighteen and do not require Child Protection Registry, police or FBI clearances.

The adoptee completed a physical examination on June 23, 2012, at the Pediatric Village, 4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. The examination report indicates that he is healthy and free of communicable disease. He is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and is not prescribed medication.

Evelyn completed a physical examination on November 9, 2012, at the Pediatric Village, 4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. Her examination report indicates that she is healthy and free of communicable disease.

THREE (3) REFERENCES CONTACTED: Yes X No
(29 DCMR 1620.5(u))

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Sharon Gail
705 Blandon Way
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901
(301) 593-9488 | 2. William Rogers
9315 Peabody Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20011
(202)-832-7091 |
| 3. Frank and Susan Plank
3311 Newark Street
Ft. Washington, Maryland 20746
(301) 337-3412 | |

COMMENTS:

On April 5, 2012, a telephone interview was conducted by this social worker with Ms. Sharon Gail, who has known the petitioners for approximately fifteen years. She met petitioner A.L.H. when she attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. She met petitioner Z.H., when the petitioners began dating. Ms. Gail and the petitioners are close friends and maintain weekly contact. Ms. Gail has visited the home of the petitioners and has interacted with the adoptee and his sister. Ms. Gail describes the petitioners as “doting parents”. She is confident that the petitioners are able to provide the adoptee and his sister with a stable, loving and structured home. She highly recommends the petitioners to adopt the adoptee and his sister.

On April 5, 2012, this social worker conducted a telephone interview with Mr. William Rogers, who has known the petitioners for approximately ten years. When the petitioners resided in the District of Columbia, they were neighbors and are close friends. They often participate in activities together. Mr. Rogers has observed the petitioners parenting the adoptee and his sister, and believes that they are doing an excellent job. He indicates that petitioners are committed to providing the adoptee and his sister with a home filled with love, structure and Christian values. Mr. Rogers recommends the petitioners to adopt the adoptee and his sister.

On May 1, 2012, a face-to-face interview was conducted by this social worker with Mrs. Susan Plank, and a letter, dated April 20, 2012, was received from Mr. and Mrs. Plank. Mrs. Plank reports that she and her husband have known the petitioners for two years. They attend the same church, and participate in the same church auxiliary. The Planks also have children in the same age group as the adoptee and his sister, and they often play together. Mrs. Plank indicates that without reservation she and her husband believe that the petitioners are excellent parents. She indicates that the petitioners are smart, resourceful, genuine, and are able to provide the children with a loving and nurturing home. Mrs. Plank and her husband recommend the petitioners to adopt the adoptee and his sister.

THREE POST-PLACEMENT INTERVIEWS WITH THE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE, WHO VISITED THE HOME THREE (3) TIMES IN SIX (6) MONTHS WERE COMPLETED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES(29 DCMR 1624.2):

- (1) March 13, 2012 (2) April 11, 2012 (3) May 8, 2012

The adoptee has been observed in the presence of the petitioners in their home on at least three occasions. At each home visit, he was playing, laughing and interacting well with the petitioners, who were patient and nurturing towards him. The adoptee seeks guidance and instruction from the petitioners, and the petitioners are attentive to the adoptee's needs. The adoptee has a close relationship with the petitioners and his sister.

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC) COMPLIANCE. (D.C. Code § 31-1042) (Check One)

1. Petition proposes sending a child from the District of Columbia to the state of Maryland for purpose of adoption **AND** the child was placed after September 20, 1989 **AND**
 - A. Agency has applied for ICPC approval of the adoptive placement.
Date: April 5, 2012
 - B. Agency has received a notice of compliance with the ICPC.
Date: April 30, 2012
(Attach copy of 100A to report to be forwarded to court)
2. No compliance is required because (Check all that apply):
 - A. Petition does not propose sending child from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for purpose of adoption; AND/OR
 - B. Child was placed on or before September 20, 1989;
 - C. Child was brought from a foreign jurisdiction; AND
 - D. Notice to INS was provided.
3. The Indian Child Welfare Act (Title 25 U.S.) is applicable to the adoption (check one)
 Yes (if yes, has there been compliances to the adoption - check one)
yes no
 No

COMMENTS:

The Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children was received on behalf of the adoptee, granting approval for an adoptive home placement in the state of Maryland, on April 30, 2012.

LIST OF FEES PAID BY PETITIONER(S) IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADOPTION:

<u>Filing Fee</u>	<u>\$ 80.00 (waived)</u>
<u>D.C. police and FBI clearances</u>	<u>\$ 14.00 (CFSA paid)</u>
<u>Maryland police clearances</u>	<u>\$ 48.00</u>

SUBSIDY:

- Adoptee is eligible for subsidy
 - Referral to the Adoption Subsidy Unit has been made.
Date: February 19, 2012
 - Subsidy meeting with the petitioner(s) has been held.
Date: _____
 - Subsidy paperwork and evaluations have been completed.
Date: _____
 - Subsidy agreement has been approved and signed.
Date: April 26, 2012
- Petitioners declined to apply for subsidy
- Adoptee is not eligible for subsidy

COMMENTS:

On April 26, 2012, the adoption subsidy agreement was approved by the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency. The petitioners will receive \$31.67 per day in subsidy payments on behalf of the adoptee until he reaches the age of twenty-one. The adoptee will continue to receive Medicaid coverage through the state of Maryland.

NARRATIVE OF BIRTH PARENTS(s) - Background History:

Birth Mother

Jasmine Lorraine Turnkey, African American, was born on September 21, 1984, in Washington, D.C., to Mary Wilson and an unknown father. The birth mother was adopted on November 21, 1994 by Evelyn and Roger Turnkey. Her Social Security number is 800-76-4009. She has black hair, a medium brown complexion and dark brown eyes. She is approximately five feet four inches in height and weighs approximately one hundred eighty-five pounds. She has never married. Her last known address was 5319 Eldridge Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20019. The birth mother presents as a level headed, optimistic and jovial person. She enjoys reading, dancing and listening to music.

As indicated, the birth mother was born to Mary Wilson and an unknown father. She resided with Ms. Wilson, and her two older siblings, from birth to the age of seven. At the age of seven, she and her brothers, Marcus and Freedman Wilson, were removed from their mother's care and placed in the care and custody of the CFSA. According to the birth mother, her mother was a substance abuser who often prostituted to earn money to support her habit. The birth mother also recalls that she and her brothers were sexually abused by one of her mother's "customers". At the time of their removal, Marcus was twelve and Freedman was eleven.

Upon entering foster care, she and her brothers were placed in separate foster homes. She began residing with her now adoptive parents, Evelyn and Roger Turnkey. Her brothers were placed together in a separate foster home. Neither she nor her siblings reunified with their mother. Her mother subsequently died of a heroin overdose in 1999. Her brothers exited foster care in 1992 and were placed with their maternal aunt, Betty Frost, who subsequently obtained legal guardianship of them in 1994. In 2000, Marcus died of a gunshot wound; and, the birth mother's brother, Freedman, is currently incarcerated.

The birth mother was primarily reared in Chantilly, Virginia, as an only child. Her parents were employed by the federal government during her upbringing. Her mother died in 2007 from an aneurism. Her father has since retired and has relocated to Hampton, Virginia. The birth mother was reared as Christian and attended a Catholic church for mass on Sundays. Although she attended church, she did not view spirituality as important. In her household, being civic minded and obtaining an education was more valued.

The birth mother graduated from St. John's High School in 2001. Thereafter, she enrolled at George Mason University and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. The birth mother had aspirations of becoming a lawyer, and was accepted at the American University Law School. The birth mother completed one year of law school and began to experience severe bouts of depression. She sought mental health treatment and was prescribed Abilify to assist her. She also began participating in therapy.

During her visits to the therapist, the birth mother met the birth father of the adoptee. She described him as handsome, adventurous and street smart. Shortly after they began dating, the birth mother was introduced to heroin by the birth father, who had a history of substance abuse. The birth mother indicates that heroin stabilized her moods and she became dependent upon the drug. Unable to manage her substance abuse, she dropped out of law school.

She and the birth father began cohabitating and supported their substance abuse habit by stealing from department stores and distributing drugs. From their union, the birth mother bore her first child, the adoptee, on November 26, 2004. When the birth mother became pregnant with the adoptee, she began to experience domestic violence incurred by the birth father. As a result, she sporadically obtained prenatal care.

On January 12, 2005, the birth mother and father were arrested for distribution of cocaine. During their incarceration, the adoptee was provided care by the birth mother's parents. The birth mother was released from prison on October 22, 2006. During her incarceration, she was able to become sober and dissolve her relationship with the birth father who remained incarcerated until May 3, 2007. Upon her release from prison, the birth mother initially resided with her parents but relocated back to the District of Columbia in March 2007.

The birth mother obtained housing and employment as an Administrative Assistant. She also was able to maintain her sobriety and participated in Narcotics Anonymous through the CATAADA House. She resumed individual therapy and was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder, by therapist William Paxton, Psy.D., of Blickr and Blickr. She was prescribed Prozac and Seroquel, and was medication compliant.

In August 2007, the birth mother became reacquainted with a high school friend, Eugene Walker, during her mother's funeral. They began dating and ultimately cohabitating in Washington, D.C. From their union, the birth mother gave birth to her second child, Evelyn Turnkey, on August 10, 2008. Their relationship was plagued with verbal and physical abuse and the birth mother indicates that she would often leave the relationship, but returned believing that it would improve. To cope with the abuse, the birth mother relapsed, and began using heroin again.

On October 1, 2009, the birth mother retaliated against Mr. Walker during a dispute. She recalls having the adoptee's sister, Evelyn, in her arms cooking dinner, when Mr. Walker approached her. An argument ensued, and he began to physically abuse her while she was holding Evelyn. When the abuse stopped, he retired to the living room and began to watch television. The birth mother recalls thinking that her abuse would never stop unless she stopped Mr. Walker. She also realized that she was placing her children at risk. When Mr. Walker had fallen asleep, the birth mother obtained a butcher knife and proceeded to kill Mr. Walker as a result of multiple knife wounds. At the time of the incident, her children were in their bedrooms. The birth mother was subsequently arrested and charged with first degree murder. She was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison with a chance of parole in 2025.

As a result of her arrest, her children were removed from her care and placed in the care and custody of the CFSA on October 1, 2009. The adoptee and his sister, Evelyn, were placed in a single parent CFSA foster home.

The birth mother was unable to pursue reunification of her children due to her long-term incarceration in Columbus, Ohio, and she was unable to identify viable relative resources. Her father had health issues, and was unable to rear two small children. Her cousin, Francelle Robinson and her husband, were pursued as placement resources for the adoptee and his sibling, but later withdrew their interest amid marital problems and concerns with rearing the adoptee and his sibling long-term. The adoptee and his sister's permanency goal changed from Reunification to Adoption on October 3, 2010, during a Permanency Hearing before Magistrate Judge Pamela Thomas, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The foster parent with whom they had been residing indicated that she was unable to adopt the adoptee and his sister, and recruitment efforts ensued. They were subsequently matched with the petitioners on January 5, 2011, and transitioned into their home on July 26, 2011, where they continue to reside.

On July 29, 2012, the adoptee's birth mother consented to the adoption of the adoptee by the petitioners. Throughout the adoptee's time in foster care, the birth mother has maintained communication with the petitioners regarding the adoptee. She has frequently contacted the petitioners and inquired about how the adoptee was progressing. Additionally, she built a relationship with the petitioners which will continue, post-adoption.

Birth Father

The birth father of the adoptee, Henry Maurice Price, African American, was born on September 11, 1978, in Detroit, Michigan, to Wallace and Elizabeth Price. His Social Security number is 800-62-5550. He is six feet four inches tall and weighs approximately two hundred and forty-two

pounds. His last known address is 11320 Pearson Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20020. He presents as a reserved and intelligent man.

According to the Disposition report, dated December 23, 2008, the adoptee is the youngest of the birth father's four children. The birth father indicated that he does not maintain relationships with his other three children who reside outside of the District of Columbia. The CFSA record reflects that the birth father has two sisters and one brother. Several of his extended family members, including his mother, reside in the state of Michigan.

The birth father reports graduating from Coolidge Senior High School in Detroit, Michigan, in 1996. During high school, he began dating the mother of his oldest two children, Henry Maurice Price, Jr., born March 12, 1996; and Robert Price, born August 29, 1997. However, he and their mother never married, and their relationship ended in 1998, after the birth of their second child.

After completing high school in 1996, the birth father had limited employment prospects. He became a factory worker for the Ford Motor Company, Inc., but viewed his employment as menial labor, with little prospects for becoming financially prosperous. As a result, he began selling heroin to subsidize his income, and to support his growing family.

In 1997, the birth father entered the United States Army, and was an active member until 2000. At the onset of him entering the military, he was stationed in Ramstein, Germany for two years. While in Germany, he learned that his children's mother had become engaged to marry, which resulted in the dissolution of their relationship in 1998.

The birth father enjoyed residing in Germany. He recalls becoming more adventurous and frequenting night clubs regularly. While at a club, he met the mother of his third child, Harriet Olshlunger, born February 2, 1999. He and Harriet's mother never married or had a long-term relationship. As a result, the birth father has never been involved in Harriet's life. He soon began to gamble and to use cocaine. The birth father's addiction was the ultimate factor in him leaving the military in 2000. He was dishonorably discharged, because he could not maintain his sobriety, despite efforts to obtain assistance with his addictions.

Upon discharge, the birth father relocated back to Michigan but felt hopeless. His older two children were being reared by their mother and her now husband and he could not obtain employment. He began to sell and use drugs with his brother. His drug of choice was cocaine but he also began to experiment with heroin. He and his brother began to traffic drugs to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, where the birth father ultimately began residing in 2001. He recalls thinking that changing his environment may change his coping mechanisms. In an effort to maintain his sobriety, he began participating in individual therapy to treat his depression and lack of self-esteem.

He and the birth mother attended the same facility for therapy. Shortly after meeting, they began to date and to cohabitate in 2003. The adoptee was the only child born from their union.

During their relationship, the birth father relapsed, and subsequently introduced heroin to the birth mother. As indicated previously, he and the birth mother's relationship was characterized by substance abuse, distribution of drugs, theft and domestic violence. On January 12, 2005, the birth mother and father were arrested for distribution of cocaine. During their incarceration in

Columbus, Ohio, the adoptee was provided care by the birth mother's parents. The birth father remained incarcerated until May 3, 2007. Upon his release from prison, the birth father did not maintain contact with the birth mother or the adoptee.

On November 7, 2009, the birth father was located through the CFSA Diligent Search Unit. The birth father was incarcerated in Jessup, Maryland, for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. He was scheduled to be released from prison on September 30, 2010. The birth father was notified that the adoptee was placed in the care and custody of the CFSA on October 1, 2009, as a result of the birth mother's arrest. The birth father indicated that he was not interested in parenting the adoptee, and could not identify placement resources for the adoptee. The birth father did not maintain contact with the CFSA, the adoptee or the social worker, despite efforts by the CFSA to maintain contact with him through letters and telephone contact.

From January 23, 2010 to May 11, 2012, the birth father's whereabouts were unknown. He was located by Wanda Frank, CFSA Diligent Search Investigator, on May 11, 2012, in the District of Columbia. The birth father indicated that he had relocated to Detroit, Michigan for approximately one year. The birth father was served notice of the pending adoption proceedings.

A Show Cause Hearing was held on July 29, 2012, before Magistrate Judge Pamela Thomas. The birth father did not appear at the hearing. As a result, the Court issued a short order waiving the birth father's right to consent to the adoption of the adoptee.

NARRATIVE OF Child – Background and Placement History:

Hezekiah Lamar Turnkey, age seven, was born on November 26, 2004, to Jasmine Lorraine Turnkey and Henry Maurice Price. His Social Security number is 800-12-3544. He was born full-term in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Hospital Center. At birth he weighed four pounds, eleven ounces. The birth mother reports having sporadic prenatal care and using heroin during her pregnancy with the adoptee. As a result of the adoptee having a low birth weight and exposure to drugs en utero, he remained hospitalized until his discharge on January 2, 2005. At discharge, the adoptee weighed five pounds, sixteen ounces, and was twenty-two inches in length. As a result of the adoptee's low birth weight and exposure to substance abuse en utero, the adoptee has developmental delays and is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy.

The adoptee is African American, with a medium brown complexion, brown eyes and black hair. He has a friendly and engaging personality. He is inquisitive and enjoys playing with toy trucks and race cars.

The adoptee is the only child born to his parents' union. However, from his birth father he has three older half-siblings: Henry Price, Jr. and Robert Price, and Harriet Olshlunger, whom he has never met. From his mother he has one younger half-sister, Evelyn Turnkey, with whom he has always resided.

Until October 1, 2009, the adoptee resided with his birth mother and her partner, Eugene Walker. The adoptee attended school at Carnegy Elementary School in the southeast quadrant of Washington, D.C. where he had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to address his academic and speech delays. The adoptee received physical therapy at THEARC to assist him with his gait.

On October 1, 2009, the adoptee and his sister, Evelyn, became known to the CFSA, as a result of the birth mother being arrested for first degree murder. The adoptee was placed in the care and custody of the CFSA and placed in the home of a single foster parent licensed through the CFSA. On December 11, 2009, the birth mother stipulated that the adoptee and his sister were neglected children. On December 23, 2009, the adoptee was committed to the care and custody of the Child and Family Services Agency, and the Court ordered a permanency goal of Reunification.

Due to the birth mother's long-term incarceration, she identified her cousin, Francelle Robinson and her husband, as possible placement resources for her children. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson pursued becoming licensed foster parents through the CFSA; however, prior to becoming licensed, they withdrew their interest amid marital problems and concerns with rearing the adoptee and his sibling long-term. The adoptee and his sister's permanency goal changed from Reunification to Adoption on October 3, 2010, during a Permanency Hearing before Magistrate Judge Pamela Thomas, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Subsequent to the adoptee's permanency goal changing to Adoption, the foster mother with whom he had been residing was asked to pursue adoption or guardianship on his behalf. The foster mother indicated that she could not be a long-term resource to the adoptee or his sister, but indicated that they could remain in her home until an adoptive placement could be identified. Thereafter, recruitment efforts ensued through the CFSA Adoption Recruitment Unit, and the adoptee and his sister were matched with the petitioners on January 5, 2011. Between January 5, 2011 and July 26, 2011, transitional visits occurred, and the adoptee and his sister were placed in the home of the petitioners on July 26, 2011.

The adoptee is in the second grade at Wheatley Elementary School, located in Clinton, Maryland. The adoptee has an IEP due to his intellectual disability. The adoptee functions academically at a kindergarten level and has difficulty retaining information. Despite his challenges, the school is able to meet his needs and the adoptee is progressing. To support him academically, he receives tutoring twice a week through ABC Consulting. Currently the CFSA pays for this service, however, the petitioners are aware that post adoption they will need to incur this expense, and they are prepared to do so.

The adoptee also receives physical therapy once a week at the Children's National Medical Center (CNMC), located at 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., to assist him with his gait. The adoptee is progressing well, and developing strength in his legs. He currently walks with a walker to assist him in his mobility.

The adoptee completed a developmental evaluation through the CNMC on August 23, 2011, with Kristy Bloomberg, Psy.D. The evaluator indicated that the adoptee continues to experience abnormal muscle tone, as result of having Cerebral Palsy.

The adoptee is overall healthy. He completed a physical examination on June 23, 2012, at the Pediatric Village. The examination report indicates that he is healthy and free of communicable disease.

The adoptee completed a psycho-educational evaluation on October 28, 2011, with Craig King, Psy.D., at the Assessment Center. Dr. King indicated the adoptee achieved a full scale intelligence quotient of 80, which classified him as in the low-average range of functioning. He

scored in the 9th percentile, lower than 90% of his peers. He also indicated that the adoptee's verbal and perceptual organizational domains of functioning ranged from average to borderline, and that his perceptual reasoning abilities varied. Dr. King indicated that the adoptee was functioning at the kindergarten level in the area of reading and comprehension. He was functioning at the first grade level in the area of mathematics. Dr. King gave the adoptee the following diagnoses:

AXIS I: Complicated Bereavement
AXIS II: None
AXIS III: Cerebral Palsy
AXIS IV: Problems with Primary Support Group, Academic Concerns
AXIS V: GAF: Current 60

Overall, Dr. King recommended that the adoptee continue to receive tutoring services, that his vocabulary be increased by using picture books and memory aids, and that he continue to receive supportive services through his IEP.

The adoptee is a loveable and engaging seven-year-old boy. He is well liked by his peers and the adults in his life. He enjoys residing with his sister and with the petitioners. He refers to them as "Mommy" and "Daddy", and readily listens to them for direction. The adoptee has thrived in the petitioners' care, and they are able to meet his needs.

The adoptee attends before and after care at Kids R People Too. The adoptee enjoys attending the day care, and will also attend summer camp at the facility.

The adoptee periodically speaks with his birth mother via telephone. For Christmas he sent her a Christmas card. The petitioners plan to have the adoptee maintain an ongoing relationship with his birth mother post adoption. On July 29, 2012, the adoptee's birth mother consented to the adoption of the adoptee by the petitioners. She has built a relationship with the petitioners, which will continue post-adoption.

Upon finalization of the adoption, the adoptee's name will be changed to **Hezekiah Lamar Hanson**.

NARRATIVE OF PETITIONER (S) – Background and Placement History:

Petitioner Ziggy Hanson (Z.H.), an African American male, was born on August 1, 1964, in Eloise, Michigan, to Cynthia and Eugene Hanson. His Social Security number is 001-47-2354. Petitioner Z.H. stands approximately six feet one inch tall and weighs approximately one hundred and ninety pounds. He has medium brown complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. He enjoys spending time with his family, volunteering and exercising.

Petitioner Z.H. is the only child of his parents' union. He was raised by his mother in Michigan and had little contact with his father, but was able to maintain close relationships with his paternal relatives. Petitioner Z.H.'s father died when the petitioner was in his twenties. His mother currently resides in Michigan. During petitioner Z.H.'s childhood, he spent summers in Arizona with his maternal grandmother and many holidays in Ohio with paternal relatives. He reports an enjoyable childhood, stating that he loved to read and care for his pets. He volunteered

regularly as a teenager at the local clothing redistribution center. He was disciplined by his mother who yelled or took away privileges. He describes his mother as often sad, stating that they struggled financially when he was a child and he had to be very self-sufficient.

Petitioner Z.H. attended North Canyon High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He spent a year abroad in high school in Germany. From this experience, he developed a love of travel and foreign languages. After graduating high school in 1982, petitioner Z.H. attended college at Central College in Pella, Iowa, and graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor's degree in International Business Management and German. From 1986 to 2003, he worked as a Foreign Affairs Specialist with the federal government. Thereafter, he resigned to attend college on a full-time basis. He began attending the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, in 2003, and graduated in 2006 with a Master's degree in Business Administration. During his college years, he spent a year studying in Vienna, Austria and a semester in Italy. Petitioner Z.H. has been employed as a management consultant with PITCH Consultants in Washington, D.C. since 2006.

Petitioner Abigail Louise Hanson (A.L.H.), an African American female, was born June 29, 1968, in Greenwood, South Carolina, to Estelle and Franklin Montgomery. Her Social Security number is 111-85-2333. Petitioner A.L.H. is approximately five feet six inches tall and weighs two hundred pounds. She has a dark brown complexion, has black hair and brown eyes. She enjoys being outdoors, cooking and playing the piano.

Petitioner A.L.H. is the oldest of three children born to her parents. Hunter Montgomery, age thirty-seven, and Calvin Montgomery, age thirty-three, reside with their respective families in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where petitioner A.L.H.'s parents also reside. Hunter is married, and has two children, ages five and two. He works as an electrician. Calvin is married, works as an architect and has no children.

Petitioner A.L.H.'s father worked in real estate and her mother was a paralegal. They are now retired. Petitioner A.L.H. describes her family as close and states that they enjoyed going to movies and playing music. Petitioner A.L.H. grew up playing the piano frequently and also enjoyed computer programming, stating that she started her own small computer programming business when she was still in high school. Petitioner A.L.H. attended Hilton Head Preparatory High School and graduated in 1986. She then continued her education at Spellman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. She currently works as a supervisor in the Information Technology department of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C., where she has been employed since 2004.

The petitioners met through a mutual acquaintance in 2002 and dated for three years before marrying. The petitioners were married in the District of Columbia on October 15, 2005 (D.C. marriage license number: DC 587793-2), and have no children born of their union. Prior to this marriage, petitioner A.L.H. had one prior marriage to Clifford Ross. They were married from January 5, 1992 to August 5, 2000. They divorced in the District of Columbia due to Mr. Ross' infidelity (Divorce decree number: DRR 287602-00). Petitioner A.L.H. and Clifford Ross have no children from their union.

Petitioners Z.H. and A.L.H. state that they have a stable relationship and communicate well with each other. They have similar interests, and share common goals and values. The petitioners desire to be parents and believe that adopting a child would be the best fit for their family. As a result, they became adoptive parents through the CFSA on March 5, 2010.

They were matched with the adoptee and his sister, Evelyn, in January 2011. The adoptee and Evelyn were placed in their home on July 26, 2011. Since then, the petitioners have grown as parents. They have been able to adjust their schedules to incorporate and meet the needs of the children. The petitioners are prepared to discuss adoption with the adoptee and Evelyn as they mature. They plan to share that there are many types of families, and to inform the adoptee and Evelyn that they were chosen by the petitioners to nurture and help them develop into healthy and well-rounded adults.

Residing in the petitioners' home along with the adoptee is Evelyn Turnkey. Evelyn, age four, is the adoptee's birth sister. She is energetic, outgoing and inquisitive. She is currently enrolled in the kindergarten at the Calvary Christian Academy. She is quick learner and is well-liked by her peers and the staff at the school. She is able to count, say her alphabet, write her name and read. Evelyn enjoys the attention of the petitioners and enjoys living with her brother whom she refers to as her "best friend". Evelyn is healthy and developmentally on target with no mental health or behavioral concerns. The petitioners have also filed an adoption petition on her behalf.

The petitioners, the adoptee, and Evelyn reside in a three-level, three bedrooms, one and a half bath, single-family home located at 308 Clemson Street, Clinton, Maryland 20764. The first level consists of the living room, dining room, a half bath and kitchen with ample space. The second level has three bedrooms: the petitioners' master bedroom, the adoptee's bedroom, and Evelyn's bedroom. The home is appropriately furnished throughout and the adoptee's room is age appropriate. His bedroom is decorated in blue, and has a sports theme. His bedroom has ample space to play, and ample toys. The basement level of the home is a furnished living space that is used as a family room. The home has a small front yard and back porch. It is located within walking distance to public transportation, multiple parks, a library and the adoptee's school.

The petitioners are financially stable. Petitioner Z.H. earns a yearly income of \$129,800 (verified) and petitioner A.L.H. earns a yearly income of \$132,009 (verified). They have a combined monthly income of \$21,817, and receive an additional \$1,000 from rental income. Their monthly expenses include: \$5,200 mortgage payment for their Washington, D.C. home; \$775 mortgage payment for their West Virginia home; \$290 car payment; \$275 utilities; \$659 home, car, and life insurance; and approximately \$700 food and miscellaneous needs. Their average monthly expenses total approximately \$6,909. The petitioners are able to meet their household expenses and are able to care for the needs of the adoptee and his sibling. Petitioner Z.H. has life insurance in the amount of ten times his salary through MetLife. The beneficiaries are eighty percent to petitioner A.L.H. and twenty percent to petitioner Z.H.'s mother. The adoptee will also become a beneficiary of petitioner Z.H.'s life insurance policy upon adoption finalization. The petitioners have health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield. Post adoption, the adoptee and Evelyn will be added to the petitioners' health insurance. They will also continue to receive Medicaid coverage through the state of Maryland, which will continue post-adoption.

In the event that the petitioners are unable to provide care to the adoptee due to incapacitation or death, they have designated, Linda O'Brian, petitioner Z.H.'s cousin, to rear the adoptee to adulthood. On November 8, 2012, Social Worker Francis Baldwin spoke with Ms. O'Brian, who indicated that she was willing and able to provide for the care of the adoptee in the event that the petitioners are unable to do so. She declared her willingness to provide for the adoptee, without

the adoption subsidy, should the need arise. Ms. O'Brian resides at 2159 Court Boulevard, Valdosta, Georgia 30058. Her telephone number is (770) 490-0472.

PROSPECTIVE HOME APPROVED:

The petitioners applied to the Child and Family Services Agency as prospective adoptive parents of a ward of the District of Columbia. Their home was subsequently evaluated, and approved as an adoptive home on March 5, 2012, by the Adoptions Together, Inc.

The information contained in this report is true and correct to the best knowledge of Francis Baldwin, LGSW.

EVALUATION:

The District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency believes that this adoption is in the best interest of the adoptee. The adoptee is bonded with the petitioners and expresses affection toward them. He is placed with his sister, Evelyn, and has a close relationship with her as well. The petitioners are also in the process of adopting her. This adoption will allow the adoptee and his sister to be raised together.

The adoptee has thrived in the care of the petitioners. The petitioners have ensured that the adoptee's medical, developmental, emotional, and physical needs are met. Additionally, they have ensured that the adoptee is provided with a stimulating environment in which to learn and grow. The petitioners are attentive and nurturing with the adoptee. They try to challenge him academically and ensure that he is provided with the needed supports to progress.

The petitioners are committed to ensuring that the adoptee maintains connections with his birth mother. The petitioners have included the birth mother in the adoptee's life and will continue to do so post-adoption. They consider the birth mother to be a part of their extended family.

The adoptee is loved and accepted by the petitioners and their respective families. The petitioners are able to discuss adoption with the adoptee, expressing that they made a choice to adopt him and his sister, in order to provide them with a nurturing and loving home. The petitioners have also participated in services through the Post Permanency Family Center which they will continue to utilize as the need arises.

RECOMMENDATION:

The District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency respectfully recommends that the following order be granted.

- A final decree of adoption.
- A final decree of adoption **and** a waiver of consent(s) of the ___ birth mother/___ birth father.
- An interlocutory decree of adoption.
- A denial of the adoption petition with/without prejudice.
- A dismissal of the adoption petition with/without prejudice.
- A waiver of the consent(s) of the birth mother ___ / birth father
- A stay pending receipt of missing documentation. An extension request is attached.

Francis Baldwin, LGSW
Social Worker
Adoption Services Division II
(202) 727-5122

Approved: _____
Date

Ivanka Merlot, LICSW
Supervisory Social Worker
Adoption Services Division II

Approved: _____
Date

Brenda Donald
Director
Child and Family Services Agency