

COLIN BAENZIGER  ASSOCIATES  
EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

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*Section 6*

*Carmen Y. Davis*

*Lake Worth Beach City Manager  
Candidate Report*

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*Cover Letter and Resume*

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**Carmen Y. Davis**  
106 Stonebridge Lane, Clinton, MS 39056  
601-665-5527 cell    cyd05@live.com

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June 18, 2021

Mr. Colin Baenziger and Mr. Rick Conner  
Colin Baenziger and Associates  
2055 South Atlantic Avenue, Suite 504  
Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118

Dear Mr. Baenziger and Mr. Conner,

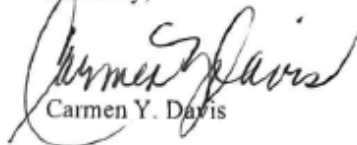
It is with great interest that I submit this letter, as well as, the accompanied application and resume for the position of City Manager with the City of Lake Worth Beach FL. After reviewing the job description and researching the community, with nearly 20 years of experience as a local government professional and over 9 years of managing a mid-size county, I believe that I am well suited for the position and community.

With over nine years of experience as County Administrator with Hinds County, MS, I am prepared to address challenges and share my county management knowledge with the Lake Worth Beach community. Hinds County has approximately 250,000 residents and is the largest county in the state of Mississippi, which is home of the state's capital and largest city in the state (Jackson, MS). During my tenure with Hinds County, I have implemented a conservative budget which yielded savings and led to full salary restoration after a 9-month furloughs period, improved the county's fiscal position so to secure bonds for facilities and infrastructure projects, comprehensively revised and updated the county's 1994 personnel and procedure policies, addressed and improved criminal justice issues, and managed over \$20 million capital improvement projects. In addition, I developed professional development workshops for department heads that resulted in improved efficiencies and working relations among department heads and elected officials.

As a 10-year City Planner with the City of Detroit, I had the opportunity to develop policies/ordinances and improve community relations among community/neighbor organizations and developers.

My resume details the accomplishments and qualifications reflecting my ability to be a value-added team member for the City of Lake Worth Beach community. I look forward to talking with you to further discuss my contribution to the Lake Worth Beach community.

Sincerely,

  
Carmen Y. Davis

**Carmen Y. Davis**

106 Stonebridge Lane, Clinton, MS 39056  
601-488-4961 home 601-665-5527 cell  
cyd05@live.com

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**PROFILE SUMMARY**

Committed, ethical, team leader, and experienced local government management professional with a proven track record of effective management, community/business relations and consensus building, policy implementation, capital improvement and project management, negotiation skills, and staff and leadership development.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, Jackson, MS**

**March 2020 – Present**

Founded in 1996 by Dr. Aaron Shirley, the Jackson Medical Mall was transformed from an abandoned shopping mall to a modern medical and retail facility. The mission, to provide healthcare for the underserved and to promote economic and community development, was made possible through strategic partnerships with the University of MS Medical Center, Jackson State University and Tougaloo College. Over twenty years later, the Jackson Medical Mall sits proudly in the center of the state's capital city, providing high quality health and community services to the public. Jackson Medical Mall Foundation (JMMF) has over 130 employees and an operating budget of about \$14 million.

*Key Responsibilities:*

- Oversee the day-to-day operations of six (6) departments – Facilities (Environmental Services and Maintenance), Security and Safety Services, Transportation Services, Events, Information Technology, and Care4ME Services (HIV Outreach Program)
- Develop, in collaboration with the CEO and the CFO, an annual operating budget that supports the JMMF's short-term and long-term operations strategies
- Assist the CEO in overseeing the JMMF's achievement and maintenance of a satisfactory competitive position within its industry
- Ensure communications, resolution of issues and project development
- Attend meetings of the Board and its Committees and present the information necessary or relevant to the Board or such Committee for discharging its duties
- Foster a corporate culture that promotes ethical practices, customer focus and service and encourages individual integrity
- Assess and manage the principal risks of the JMMF's business within operations (proposals, projects, and staffing)
- Assist the CEO in establishing an appropriate organization structure
- Set goals for departments and individual managers
- Develop and implement policies and improvements
- Build strong relationships with tenants, key external stakeholders, community leaders and vendors

**County Administrator, Hinds County, MS**

**September 2010 - January 2020**

Home of the Capital City, Jackson, MS, Hinds County is the largest county in the state of Mississippi and has a population of approximately 250,000. The county has about 900 employees and an operating budget of approximately \$115 million. Appointed by a five-member board of supervisors and assigned to oversee day-to-day operations with thirteen (13) direct reports.

*Key Accomplishments:*

- Negotiated annual employee healthcare benefits yielding over \$1.5 million in savings (reduced potential 25% cost increase to an average of 5% over 6 years)

- Oversaw and completed a comprehensive revision/update of the 1994 County Policies and Employee Handbook
- Initiated/began the County's first Health and Wellness Program which included the creation of the annual 5K walk/run
- Received "clean" (unmodified and free of misrepresentation) audits from independent auditor for 8 consecutive years
- Conducted comprehensive audit/review of all county property, equipment, and vehicles yielding no increase insurance premium cost.
- Created ADA Compliance Office, Record Management and Retention Office, Safety and Training Office, Pre-Trial Services Program
- Initiated and Upgraded County-wide technology network system to advanced fiber optic technology and increased internet speed nearly 100 times at a lower cost than the existing system cost
- Negotiated purchasing cost with vendors resulting in over \$1.0 million in savings to the General Fund, as well as, able to end furloughs and increase year-end cash balance by over 85%
- Achieved increasing cash balance from about \$26,000 in 2010 to over \$2.5 million annually by 2012
- Assisted in managing and monitoring the \$40 M bond issuance for roads, bridges and capital improvements
- Assisted in new bond issue, bond refunding and debt restructuring totaling over \$50 million yielding debt service savings
- Co-chaired newly established Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for two (2) consecutive years with the Senior Circuit Court Judge
- Oversaw and implemented the purchasing of new voting machines for 110 polling locations
- Initiated ADA Improvement Program which consisted of facility improvements, and policies (communications grievance, and non-discrimination policy)
- Initiated purchase of two additional buildings to enhance needed office space to improve operational efficiencies
- Managed and oversaw capital improvement projects such as: \$2.4 million reconstruction project for adult jail housing unit and over \$7 million in jail facility upgrades and improvements, and \$2 million ADA improvements to historic courthouse
- Managed and facilitated the development of the adopted 2017-18 Strategic Plan
- Developed and conducted professional development workshops tailored for department heads to enhance interdepartmental relations, increase moral and improve departmental performance
- Recipient of the Patriotic Employer Certificate from the Office of the Secretary of Defense as an Employer Supporting the Guard and Reserve

### **City Planner, City of Detroit, MI**

**June 1993 – July 2001 and  
January 2007 – August 2009**

#### *Key Accomplishments:*

- Supervised, planned, and coordinated community benefit agreements and conducted conflict resolution sessions among community organizations and Fortune 500 Companies on behalf of City Council (Marathon Oil, Ambassador Bridge Expansion, Chrysler New Mack Engine Plant)
- Chaired effective meetings with community leaders and groups, large and small business owners, and other city departments and agencies on various land use, zoning, and policy issues
- Reviewed and analyzed the social, economic and physical impact of neighborhood commercial development trends
- Organized and developed community master plans with neighborhood and community associations
- Directed office and field work required for effectuation of plans and studies
- Planned, coordinated and laid out the work of professional, technical and clerical employees in one or more of the functional areas of the Commission
- Managed the process for Michigan liquor licenses and activity permits for City Council's consideration
- Authored zoning ordinances, zoning map amendments, city codes, and public policies on major urban issues as well as directed the preparation of recommended changes

- Created reports, recommendations and presentations to the City Planning Commission, the City Council, groups and organizations in and for the City of Detroit
- Participated and represented the City Planning Commission and City Council on task forces and conferences with other planning staff

**EDUCATION**

Master of Business Administration, Dec. 1993  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Bachelor of Art, Urban Planning and Geography, May 1989  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Current Member, International City/County Management Association  
Current President, Mississippi City/County Managers Association  
Current Member, National Association of County Administrators  
Member, MS Association of County Administrators and Comptrollers, 2010-2020  
    President 2015-16  
    Vice President 2014-15  
    Treasurer 2013-14  
Co-Chair, Hinds County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, 2017-2019  
Executive Advisory Board of Directors, Jackson State University Institute of Government, 2013-2016  
Board Member, Leadership Greater Jackson, 2013-17  
Board Member, U.S.S. Jackson Commissioning Committee, 2015-16  
Member, U.S. Navy League, 2016

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST

## **Section 6**



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*Candidate Introduction*

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**CARMEN Y. DAVIS**

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**EDUCATION**

Master of Business Administration, Wayne State University (MI)  
Bachelor of Arts, Geography and Urban Planning, Wayne State University (MI)

**EXPERIENCE**

Chief Operating Officer, Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, Jackson, MS	2020 – present
County Administrator, Hinds County, MS	2010 – 2020
City Planner IV, City Planning Commission/City Council, Detroit, MI	2006 – 2009
City Planner IV, City Planning Commission/City Council, Detroit, MI	1993 – 2001

**BACKGROUND**

Hinds County is the most populous county in MS of approximately 245,000 residents. Home of the state capital and largest city, Jackson, MS, is centrally situated in the state. Hinds County is a professional, educational, business, and industrial hub in the state. Two major thoroughfares intersect in Hinds County: I-20 and I-55. The County has a total of 877 square miles of which 870 square miles is land and 7.6 square miles is water. The largest and major hospitals are located in Hinds County serving the region and state. In late 2019, Continental Tire opened its most technology advanced tire plant in North America. The plant produces large truck and bus tires for the U.S. commercial vehicle market. The nearly \$1.4 billion investment will create about 2,500 jobs over the next decade.

Hinds County’s General Fund budget comprised of about \$65 million, and the total budget was approximately \$110 million in 2019; in addition to, major capital projects such as road and bridge repairs and construction of \$40 million and \$4 million for facilities improvements. The County has 900 employees with thirteen departmental directors reporting directly to the County Administrator.

The three most significant issues facing the County are:

1. Declining conditions of the roads and bridges. In 2017, the County secured bonds for \$40 million towards repairing deteriorated roads and bridges. This effort is a beginning step towards addressing years of deferred maintenance and repair.
2. Federal consent decree with the Department of Justice concerning the juvenile and adult detention centers. In 2012, Hinds County agreed to address and improve the conditions, policies, and constitutional rights of the detention center detainees.
3. Maintaining property tax revenues. The city of Jackson is the largest municipality within the County. Jackson’s declining population and deteriorated infrastructure will continue

**CARMEN Y. DAVIS**

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to be issues with capturing the needed tax revenues to support and maintain the county's needed level of service.

**GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE**

I am interested in the City of Lake Worth Beach, FL because of its unique historic character and stable community. Coming from Detroit, MI and Jackson, MS where history is highly regarded and cultivated, I will bring that same historic spirit to Lake Worth Beach. Also, I am drawn towards Lake Worth Beach because of the opportunity to bring my local government, community planning, and organizational management and structure experience to assist the City Commission in carrying out its strategic plan and mission to guide future development, as well as create a more citizen centric community.

My leadership with over 20 years of local government experience has been rooted in integrity, transparency, and stability – in line with Lake Worth Beach's core values. My career has been guided by the principle of servant leadership and being an ethical public servant for the community in which I serve. Prior to my appointment as County Administrator with Hinds County, the County had three different County Administrators within four years. My tenure of nearly 10 years brought leadership stability and consistent management to Hinds County. This approach would contribute to the progress that Lake Worth Beach has begun in the community. Furthermore, my urban planning and community development background would be valuable in addressing the development needs of Lake Worth Beach to assist the Commission in carrying out the city's Strategic Plan, Capital Improvement Projects, and other community sustainability plans and programs. I have worked on and led major land developments, land use and zoning matters, and comprehensive and master plans.

My management style consists of a combination of participatory, collaborative, and consultative. As a professional local government manager that is responsible for implementing the policies and goals of the local government leaders, I believe that my role is to keep the team informed of the organization's goals and direction, utilize the skills and knowledge of the team, and encourage/expect the team to be innovative and creative to address challenging issues. Therefore, in my experience with overseeing a wide range of departmental directors, I found that each director is different and may require a different managerial approach from another director. My position is that the team and their staff are the backbone of any community. A leader must be in tune with the wellbeing of the team. The success of the community is based on the staff being competent and equipped to do their jobs.

Staff would say that I am an approachable, trustworthy, insightful, solution oriented, organized, and dedicated manager. As far as elected officials, they would say that I am accessible, helpful in addressing their needs and concerns, communicative, and budget conscious. My philosophy in working with staff and elected officials is to ensure that they have the resources to carry out their designated roles and state mandated duties to meet the needs of the residents, visitors, and

**CARMEN Y. DAVIS**

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community. In my career, I have worked with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Additionally, I can work with all aspects of the community from employees, elected officials to the grassroots of the community to forge collaborations and partnerships to accomplish results where all parties are proud of.

My strength is the ability to maintain a cool and collected demeanor in difficult or stressful situations. I am able to bring calm to a situation. For example, there was an instance when one of our elected officials had not carried out a particular state mandated duty for which he/she was responsible. I was able to gather several staff members to assist me in making sure the particular state mandated duty was performed. The completion of the duty satisfied the state officials and spared the county from embarrassment and financial penalties. On the other hand, concerning a weakness, I am thorough and concise in addressing a matter or situation. This tendency is usually a positive trait; but it can also be an issue when a quick action or decision is needed. However, I have learned over the years to trust my 20 years of experience, along with my instincts and leadership abilities.

In regard to the performance measures used to determine that my staff and I are meeting the organization's goals, at the beginning of each budget year, I implemented a practice that each department director and I set goals which correlated with the departments' roles and the organization's strategic plans and/or priorities. At the end of the budget year, each department's progress was reviewed to determine whether the goals had been achieved. One of the achievements while serving Hinds County was that a cohesive, mutual respect of each other's strengths/skills, and collaborative management team was created. When I began in 2010, the management team was lacking direction, trust of each other's leadership ability, and professional development opportunities. I began monthly meetings, bi-annual retreats, and regular professional/leadership workshops which resulted in strong team relationships, improved across departmental communication, and supportive management team. A mistake that I made was not trying harder to retain a very competent and valuable grants officer. The grants officer was offered a position with another organization. Unfortunately, it took over a year to hire a comparable replacement. I learned that it is more efficient for the organization to work harder to retain employees with proven, as well as valuable talent.

In my career, I have had to fire people. Generally, and depending on the severity of the situation, the drastic action was after providing consultation on the concern with the opportunity for corrective action. Most of the time, the person would align with the corrective action. However, after being counseled and given the opportunity to correct the undesired behavior, the employee was informed that he/she will no longer be able to continue their service with the organization. It is not a pleasant action to take or communicate to a person; but, if the person was given the opportunity to change his/her behavior or have conducted a severe violation, I felt that I did what I could do to address the matter for the good of the organization.

The challenges that I think the person who takes this job are:

1. Shape and manage the redevelopment growth in keeping with Lake Worth Beach's unique heritage and character.
2. Manage the limited finances and resources. In addition, work with the Commission to develop an allocation plan for the \$10 million federal stimulus funds to effectively meet the needs of the community.
3. Utilize the current tax revenues efficiently and create a projected resource allocation plan for future tax receipts anticipated in 10 years from the CRA's developments.
4. Ensure proper accountability from absentee property owners, particularly owners of residential rental properties.
5. Review how Lake Worth Beach does business to ensure that programs and processes are fostering an efficient, transparent and citizen centric government. Determine whether resources are being used optimally.
6. Work with other communities (state, county and federal) to receive assistance in addressing local concerns/issues such as: homelessness, opioids, poverty, cleaning/protecting the Lake Worth Lagoon, flooding, and sea level rise.

What I would do in the first six months in Lake Worth Beach are:

1. Meet with each City Commissioner to understand their priorities, issues, and expectations. In addition, I would like to establish regular meetings with each Commissioner to keep open communications and build a trusting relationship.
2. Hold meet and greet meetings with other city officials, staff, residents, neighborhood associations, business groups, and county officials.
3. Hold one on one meetings with department heads to get acquainted, start building relationships, and become aware of the accomplishments, as well as the challenges in their department.
4. Visit the various city facilities, buildings, and properties, as well as tour the community (neighborhoods, businesses, industry, and potential development sites).
5. Review and become familiar with the City's infrastructure and capital improvement plans to ensure progress and management of their funds.
6. Review and become knowledgeable of the city's important plans, documents, codes, manuals, and agreements. This would allow me to get a better understanding of the city's operations.

I've worked very closely with the media. Being accessible, informative, and available to address their inquiries are important to fostering transparency to the public. Recognizing that there are subject matters that are sensitive, the City Commission may need to be informed of such sensitive inquiries from the media prior to providing a response. There is not anything in my background that would embarrass the City of Lake Worth Beach if it became public knowledge. Should I be privileged to be selected as a finalist in Lake Worth Beach, I do not expect any community activist that is likely to contact Lake Worth Beach with "the dirt" on me.

**CARMEN Y. DAVIS**

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Social media is an essential tool to share information to the public about Lake Worth Beach in a timely manner. To ensure that information is shared on a consistent basis, a dedicated person who is well versed in social media outlets would be established to send information to the public. Because I understand that open communication to the public is vital to being a responsive and open government, as County Administrator in Hinds County, I created the position of Public Relations Officer to do just that.

In my leisure time, I like to walk, bowl, and relax with my husband while watching a good movie.

**SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF**

1. Dependable to get the job done
2. Pleasant
3. Organized, focused, and detailed oriented
4. See the best in everyone and every situation
5. Integrity
6. Goal oriented

**REASON FOR WANTING TO LEAVE MOST RECENT JOB**

The reason that I want to leave my current job is that I have the passion and desire to serve a local government. I count it a privilege to serve communities to enhance the quality of life for those that live and do business there.

**CURRENT/MOST RECENT OR RELEVANT SALARY**

At Hinds County, my compensation was \$125,000, including use of a County vehicle and cell phone.

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*CB&A Background Checks*

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**Background Check Summary for  
CARMEN Y. DAVIS**

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**Criminal Records Checks:**

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Hinds County, MS	No Records Found
Wayne County, MI	No Records Found
State	
Mississippi	<i>Records Maintained by County. See Above.</i>
Michigan	No Records Found

**Civil Records Checks:**

County	
Hinds County, MS	No Records Found
Wayne County, MI	No Records Found
Federal	
Mississippi	No Records Found
Michigan	No Records Found

<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	
Mississippi	No Records Found

<b>Credit</b>	Excellent
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<b>Personal Bankruptcy</b>	No Records Found
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<b>Sex Offender Registry</b>	Not Listed
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<b>Education</b>	Confirmed
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<b>Employment</b>	Confirmed except for: Jackson Medical Mall Foundation (2020 – Present)
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<b>Social Media</b>	Nothing of Concern Found
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**Background Check Summary for  
CARMEN Y. DAVIS**

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Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

**Background Check Summary for  
CARMEN Y. DAVIS  
Personal Disclosure**

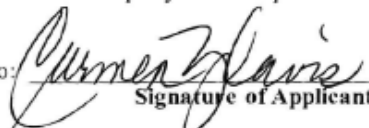
**Personal Disclosure Questionnaire**

Name of Applicant: Carmen Y. Davis

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

*Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.*

- 1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?  
Yes Y No
- 2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?  
Yes Y No
- 3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?  
Yes Y No
- 4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes Y No
- 5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes Y No
- 6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated?  
Yes Y No
- 7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?  
Yes Y No
- 8. Please list all your social media accounts (Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn / Twitter, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one.  
Facebook.com/carmen.davis
- 9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?  
Yes Y No
- 10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.

Attested to:   
Signature of Applicant

**Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to Lynelle@cb-asso.com or via fax to (561) 621-5965 no later than 5:00 PM PST 06/28/2021.**  
**(Note: Please be sure to sign the form with your actual signature if you are sending Fax or PDF Document)**

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*CB&A Reference Notes*

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Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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**Phil Fisher – Former Supervisor, Hinds County, MS 601-924-5474**

Mr. Fisher was on the Board in Hinds County from 2010 to 2013. Ms. Davis was outstanding and on top of everything. Hinds County can be very chaotic with five supervisors who are going in five different directions. She kept up with everything that needed to be done, organized it, and kept the Board moving in a forward direction even then they started chasing rabbits. Under the former administrator they were often voting in arrears. She made sure they had the correct paperwork in the right timing to make decisions. She organized the County and did very well.

Ms. Davis reviewed the organization when she was hired and had to let some employees go that were not performing. She brought in some excellent individuals to replace them. Rather than promoting employees who may not be qualified, as had been done in the past, she hired professionals in their field who were already trained which greatly enhanced the County's credibility in financial audits, budget, communications, and more. Her decisions in general are also good. She keeps everyone informed.

Former County Administrators did not show up to community events, but Ms. Davis was always there. She took much initiative to attend the chamber banquet and every type of gathering in the community. She is easy to talk to. Constituents like that she is responsive and gives them an answer, even when the answer is not what they had hoped for. She is customer service oriented.

Being able to put together a budget with County employees who are intimidated by the Board, balance the budget and provide necessary funding is something Ms. Davis did well. Her budgets were balanced, fair, and they made sense. She held the line even when elected officials made foolish promises but did so without placing blame on anyone.

Because Ms. Davis is so organized, she was timely in meeting deadlines. She handled stress by laughing. Most of the stress came from the elected officials who wanted things done their way even when the idea did not receive support from the majority. She also knew that she worked at their pleasure, which would have caused some stress but is the nature of the position.

Controversial issues came up, like the landfill. Ms. Davis was involved to the extent of making sure that they addressed the issues, and everything was properly executed. Mr. Fisher is not aware of anything in Ms. Davis's history that would concern an employer.

Two of the Board Members who voted to let Ms. Davis go were newly elected and swayed by one Board Member who did not like her because she would not do everything he asked. She focused on doing what was in the best interest of the County, as long as it was legal.

Mr. Fisher would hire Ms. Davis, she has good experience.

Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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**Words or phrases used to describe Carmen Davis:**

- Energetic,
- Decisive,
- Organized, and
- Customer oriented.

**Strengths:** Organization, ability to herd cats, point people in the right direction and keep them moving, knew when to use gentle persuasion and when to be blunt, had the courage to do the right thing for the benefit of the County regardless of how it affected her personally.

**Weaknesses:** She is a trusting person who could be betrayed by those who have bad intent.

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**Tomie Green – Senior Circuit Court Judge, Hinds County, MS 601-968-5568  
601-955-0354**

Ms. Green worked on different committees and communications with Hinds County and has known Ms. Davis since around 2011.

Ms. Davis is excellent, she has been able to accomplish much. They worked together on the budget and served on other committees together. The one that sticks out most was the department of justice committee for the jail. The Committee ensured that the jail was in constitutional compliance with the use of force and the jail is still under that consent decree. The process took a great deal of time and it required almost daily attention during the process, but she made sure that the jail was in compliance.

Decisions made by Ms. Davis are definitely good. She is innovative in identifying problems, coming up with a solution, and then achieving buy in. Everyone knows Ms. Davis in the County. Whether the event is social or professional, she was very visible and her entire family was active in the community. Prior to her arrival no one really knew who the County Administrator was, but they knew her because she was very involved. She is also good about keeping others informed.

Emergency management and weather conditions are something that Ms. Davis organized procedures for. She dealt with emergencies like hurricanes, tornadoes, and bomb threats. Nine times out of ten, she was the person coordinating meetings to develop a plan for the emergency.

Being customer service oriented, Ms. Davis told the Court and the Board that the County was a business and citizens were the customers, and they needed to treat them that way. They could always depend on her to meet deadlines and respond in a reasonable amount of time.

Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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Even though judges are state employees, the budget goes through the District Attorney's office. When they went over budget or needed appropriations, Ms. Davis was very helpful. She organized the process so that everything was on time and then went before the Board to present the budget. She has great financial skills.

After an election the makeup of the Board changed and they wanted to bring in their own administrator, which really upset everyone in the county because they all enjoy working with Ms. Davis. Nothing in her background or conduct would concern an employer.

Ms. Green tried to hire Ms. Davis because of her skills, abilities, and knowledge of the County, but she opted for a different position instead. She managed a very complex county and court system, with many different personalities. There is nothing that Ms. Davis cannot do, she is very talented. She has great character and values. She treats everyone with respect.

**Words or phrases used to describe Carmen Davis:**

- Competent,
- Professional,
- Timely,
- Innovative,
- Committed to her job, and
- Bright or smart.

**Strengths:** Problem solving, good rapport with department heads and elected officials, good rapport with the committee, developing solutions, completed tasks well, very articulate in communication, very hard worker. Pulls people together and diffuses tense situations, which is a communication and an organization skill.

**Weaknesses:** She takes on the problems of other people and as such, her schedule is overloaded.

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**Darrell McQuirter – Former President, Hinds County, MS 601-927-3962**

Mr. McQuirter reported to Ms. Davis from around 2012 to 2014 as the Permitting and Zoning Director, and then he was elected to the Board and she reported to him until she left in 2020. She is very efficient, knowledgeable, energetic, and did an overall good job.

Ms. Davis reported to the Board and was sometimes instructed who to hire, so she should not be held accountable for those hires. She conducted thorough background checks and gave her opinion but the Board made some of the hiring decisions. Her decisions in general are good.

Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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When something is not working Ms. Davis can be a change agent. She made tough decisions which upset some but improved the organization. She gave employees the option to perform at a higher level and trained them in skills they were lacking. She is always looking for new and better ways to work.

In the community Ms. Davis is very visible and she works with the public quite well. She is a people person who has good communication skills. She keeps everyone informed. Customer service is very important to her.

When Ms. Davis was hired, the County was in disarray and all they did was fix issues. In reviewing the organization, she realized that the County was involved in a very risky bond with a \$8 million dollar exposure. She encouraged the Board to refinance the bond and they were able to secure a much better rate. They essentially went from a negative \$8 million to a positive \$3 million. The Board wanted to ignore the bond at first, but she made sure they did not because it put them in such a precarious position.

Most of the time Ms. Davis had one on one conversations with Board members. She typically has fourteen days to report back to the Board, and her assignments were already ready to go and on time. She does not like politics but knows how to maneuver through them. The stress of a task does not bother her.

Everything with the County was controversial because of the environment and the infighting between Board members. Ms. Davis was caught in the middle and had to do what was ordered by the majority of the Board. Her background does not contain anything that would concern a reasonable person. A newly elected Board majority knew that she would not go along with their plans because the plans were not proper and she has integrity. So, they voted 3/2 to not give her a new contract.

If they wanted to reinstate Mr. McQuirter as the President, he would only return with Ms. Davis and the attorney. She has integrity and is a good manager. The information she gave the Board was always accurate, reliable, and complete.

**Words or phrases used to describe Carmen Davis:**

- Energetic,
- Pleasant personality,
- Compassionate
- Aggressive,
- Knowledgeable, and
- Determined.

**Strengths:** Ability to network and communicate, attention to detail.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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**Mickie Parker – Former Human Resource Director, Hinds County, MS 601-896-8722**

Ms. Parker worked with Ms. Davis at Hinds County. They met in 2010. Ms. Davis' job performance is above average, she always went above and beyond to ensure that everything and everyone was taken care of.

Ms. Davis made great decisions both in hiring and in general. She does not make quick decisions, she looks into the matter and puts thought into it. She considers how solutions will affect the organization on a long term basis. She is very innovative.

Before the pandemic Ms. Davis was very visible in the community. When citizens called with concerns, she handled their issues in the most professional way in comparison to other managers. She is always right on point. She kept the staff informed, she wanted them to hear about issues from her and not from hall talk.

On a daily basis Ms. Davis led teams to resolve issues. They were looking at the food service for the detention centers and it made sense to privatize the service. The process was long and before they moved forward, she led a team effort to look at different vendors and check their references. She considered how the change would affect detainees and officers. She created a back up plan if the vendor did not show up because inmates and officers need to eat. She offered different perspectives and made sure they thought through every contingency. When she gave suggestions or ideas, she always said "we" and not "you". She was part of the team.

Being ultimately responsible for the entire County budget, Ms. Davis was good in finance. She monitored purchases throughout the year to ensure that whatever was being purchased was something the County needed and money was not wasted. She is quick to complete tasks.

During tense or challenging situations, Ms. Davis always kept a smile and did not seem stressed. Unless you understand exactly what is going on, you would never know the type of stress that she was under. She sat through some rough board meetings and kept a very pleasant expression even though it was hard on her.

Nothing controversial has occurred related to Ms. Davis. The Administrator is reappointed every year and a new elected board did not reappoint her or the attorney at their very first meeting. They did not state a reason for this decision. While Ms. Parker and Ms. Davis did not always agree, they respected each other. Where Ms. Parker was weak, Ms. Davis was strong, and they balanced each other.

Ms. Parker would hire Ms. Davis, she was one of the best managers that Hinds County ever had and was the longest standing Manager in County history. Ms. Parker has worked in government since the 1990s, Ms. Davis is the best Manager she has worked under in her entire career.



Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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**Words or phrases used to describe Carmen Davis:**

- Organized,
- Determined,
- Strong,
- Team player, and
- Great communicator.

**Strengths:** Very organized, great communicator.

**Weaknesses:** She expects others to perform as well as she does, or better, which can be a hindrance.

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**John Morgan – Owner, JM Hughes Group, Hinds County, MS 601-672-4988**

Mr. Morgan has known Ms. Davis since 2012 or 2013. They were both on the Leadership Jackson Board of Directors and got to know each other. Mr. Morgan was a lobbyist for Hinds County from 2016 to 2020. Ms. Davis is fantastic, she is a consummate professional and a pure administrator. Very few are able to navigate the political nuances and she did that marvelously.

Being the Administrator for Hinds County was a difficult job, it is the largest County in the state. Ms. Davis oversaw a large staff and a large budget with many constraints. She did very well. She is very good with numbers and budgeting. Government officials are usually on the low end of the communication spectrum, but Ms. Davis is tremendous and responds immediately.

When they met Ms. Davis was Vice President for Leadership Jackson, and she has been very involved in that organization and several other local charities. She is very visible, she attends the Chamber, ribbon cuttings, and to the local coffee shop where the business community meets.

Their work was mostly behind the scenes to create strategies for the County, but Ms. Davis proved her success in that Hinds County was not on the front page of the paper, they were always on the back page, during her tenure.

Ms. Davis is good about keeping others informed and they had regular communications throughout the legislative season. When legislation came up that Mr. Morgan did not understand, like fringe benefit payroll taxes, he called to ask for an explanation. Ms. Davis could always either answer immediately or she shortly found the answer.

When serving on the Board of Leadership Jackson, their budget was cut 70% even though they were the most successful Chamber program. They went from \$500 million to \$150 million and the topic was very touchy. Ms. Davis was very professional and classy through this time, she

Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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was a good emissary between the Chamber and the Board of Directors. She is very tactful and navigates these types of situations and relationships well. She remains cool under pressure.

A shift on the Council after an election led to Ms. Davis' departure from the County. The majority of the Board wanted someone who would play the politics more than Ms. Davis, and game the system in their favor. She served under many Presidents and did not use her position to politically benefit one member of the Board. Even the Board members who voted against her reappointment speak very highly of her.

Mr. Morgan would hire Ms. Davis, she is fantastic. He has worked with many managers and she is the best manager in the state.

**Words or phrases used to describe Carmen Davis:**

- Consummate professional,
- Pure administrator,
- Very high emotional intelligence,
- Strong financial skills, and
- Responsive.

**Strengths:** Consummate professional, pure administrator, very high emotional intelligence, very strong fiscally, responsive, has a natural sense of expediency that is not often found in government employees.

**Weaknesses:** Though a perceived weakness, she may seem introverted or withdrawn but that is only because she is very deliberate.

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**LaVonne McGee – Human Capital Development Director, Hinds County, MS 601-201-4311**

Ms. McGee was hired by, and then reported to Ms. Davis for five years, from around 2015 to 2020. They worked on many excellent and successful programs. Ms. Davis was very detailed in the hiring process, and also hired strategically to meet the goals of the strategic plan. Her character has no flaws.

Because she thinks things through, Ms. Davis is not a quick decision maker. She assesses the entire situation so she can make the best decision for the County. She is innovative and she maintains an organization at a high performance level. Communication is important to her, so she tasked Ms. McGee with helping her to keep the staff informed.

Ms. Davis was out front participating in the entire makeup of the county. She was wonderful with the public. Her personality is such that she is easy to work with. She is very open and

Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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honest, she listens intently to the residents, elected officials, and staff for their input into the overall operation of the County.

When issues arose between employees, Ms. McGee and Ms. Davis met with them to mitigate the situation and get everyone on one accord. Ms. Davis is great at mediation and resolving issues, she wanted to have a strong team and could not afford to have individuals who were not working together. She is very pleasant to work with because she is very sensitive and resolves issues in a way that is positive both in terms of finance and also stability. She ensured that Directors had enough resources to carry out their responsibilities.

The budget was always balanced during Ms. Davis' tenure, and the departments were never over their budget allowance. She was a stickler for waste. She made sure that assignments fell within the realms of the vision of the County, so they were always achieving the objectives of the Board. She dealt with challenging situations very well.

Being involved in controversy is not something Ms. Davis does, it is not in her makeup. When the Board changed after an election, they decided they wanted a new Administrator.

Ms. McGee would most definitely hire Ms. Davis, she is a good manager who is enjoyable to work with. When Directors had issues, she was very open and listened intently before speaking. She helped them work through it.

**Words or phrases used to describe Carmen Davis:**

- Professional,
- Committed,
- Strong,
- Organized,
- Compassionate, and
- A leader.

**Strengths:** Compassion, services, and strong organizational skills

**Weaknesses:** Very compassionate, she cries at the sad stories.

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**Lure Berry – Finance and Budget Director, Hinds County, MS 601-214-5174**

Ms. Berry has been with the County since 2008. When the Finance and Budget Director retired in 2016, Ms. Davis offered the position to Ms. Berry. From that time, until Ms. Davis left the County, Ms. Berry reported directly to Ms. Davis.

Reference Notes  
Carmen Y. Davis

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Ms. Davis is an excellent supervisor. She is easy to talk to and does not belittle the staff when they make a mistake. She had a nice voice and knew exactly what her role was. She was very enjoyable to work with. When given a project, she met with departments to create a plan to achieve it. She excelled at planning and organization.

Ms. Davis makes good decisions. She is innovative, a change agent, and the organization runs at a high level under her leadership. She did not change processes that were working well. She keeps everyone informed. She leads the organization to fulfill the Council's vision.

Visible in the County, Ms. Davis attended community events and worked with the public very well. She gave press conferences and was one of the few County officials to actually answer the questions. She is very articulate.

Hinds County is the largest County in the state, and they have the largest jail. When an issue occurred related to the jail, she rallied employees and elected officials to bring the jail to the standards it was supposed to be at.

Because she either answered the phone or returned the call, Ms. Davis was the person that constituents called. She followed the process through the system until it was resolved. She has good financial skills and accomplished tasks in a timely manner. If she felt stress, she hid it well.

Ms. Davis' background is free and clear of any incident that might concern an employer. She works at the will of the Board and left after a change in administration. Everyone that Ms. Berry knows has the same high opinion of Ms. Davis.

Ms. Berry would hire Ms. Davis, she is a good manager.

**Words or phrases used to describe Carmen Davis:**

- Kind,
- Motivated,
- Attentive, and
- Workaholic.

**Strengths:** Organization, planner, great communicator.

**Weaknesses:** Workaholic.

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**Prepared by:** Lynelle Klein  
Colin Baenziger & Associates

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*CB&A Internet Research*

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**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger

April 15, 2021

**PHOTOS: Vaccine Day held at the Jackson Medical Mall**

Author: ERIC SHELTON

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Carmen Davis** is listed below.]

Pharmacist Martha Johnson, left, prepares to administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination to Jimmie Braddy at the Mississippi Urban League Building, located at the Jackson Medical Mall in Jackson, Miss., Thursday, April 15, 2021. Transportation was also available for residents. "Our goal is to make healthcare accessible to all," Jackson Medical Mall Foundation Chief Operating Officer **Carmen Davis** said. "Our transportation services program has recently expanded its services to provide the community free transportation to vaccination appointments."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press

March 26, 2021

**City to Transport 400 Seniors for Vaccination at Medical Mall in April**

Author: Kayode Crown

Four hundred seniors will get COVID-19 vaccines at the Jackson Medical Mall on a yet-to-be-announced day in April, City of Jackson Constituent Services Manager Keyshia Sanders told the Jackson Free Press Thursday. "We will be providing transportation for them to be able to get picked up and transported to the vaccination site and then transported back to their home," Sanders said.

Jackson Medical Mall Foundation Chief Operations Officer **Carmen Davis** confirmed the initiative on Friday. She said the program is an expansion of its outreach program to the seniors and people with disabilities funded by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, the City of Jackson, and the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District. "The Jackson Medical Mall (Foundation) not only will host it at our site, but we will also provide transportation for those who would need transportation to get here, to be vaccinated," **Davis** said. "And so we'll be utilizing our existing transportation program services to those who are registered to be vaccinated that day." "The event will mainly focus on seniors and also the disadvantage or the disabled; however, we are setting aside vaccination shots for the general public as well."

**Working with Senior Apartment Complexes**

Sanders said the City is working with senior apartment complexes. "We're working with service coordinators for the residential apartment complexes, and they have expressed that there is a need for seniors that do not have transportation, that have a desire to be vaccinated, but they might not have the transportation to get to the vaccination site," she said.

Meanwhile, on March 6, 1,818 people participated in the City's vaccination day, Mayor Chokwe A. Lumumba disclosed at a press briefing on March 8, where he described the event as a success and noted that the number constitutes more than 1% of the city's population. Lumumba pointed out some organizations that partnered with the City for the event, including Hinds Community College, Mississippi Department of Health, and "several pharmacists around the Metro area" and "various volunteers."

"The more than 1,800 vaccinations (are) the most vaccinations the state has given out in any one day (in one location)," Lumumba said. "We know that the numbers have been abysmal in terms of less than 13% early on of Black and Brown communities being vaccinated as it relates to the overall vaccination across the state. So we wanted to step in and do our part to help the residents of Jackson, to help in the effort so that we can have some semblance of normalcy here in the near future." The Mississippi State Department of Health, on its website, noted that as of March 25, Black people in the state now makes up 29% of those vaccinated, which, however, is still below their percentage of the total population—37.8%.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Those vaccinated on March 6 will take a second dose on March 27. In a Tuesday statement, the City asked for volunteers to assist in the event. "It is not possible to pull off an event such as this without an army of dedicated volunteers," the City stated. "The City is calling for volunteers to help with day of event logistics from registration to guides to runners and more." Volunteers must be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, to help run the event. To volunteer email [volunteer@jacksonms.gov](mailto:volunteer@jacksonms.gov)."



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
January 16, 2020

**New Hinds Co. Board of Supervisors fires county administrator, board attorney on 3-2 vote**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors, with three new members, have fired the county administrator and the board's attorney. No decision has yet been made about the status of the road manager Charles Sims, who has been on family and medical leave. When the new board took office Jan. 6, members had to decide which staff to retain or replace. After electing incumbent Supervisor Robert Graham as president and new Supervisor Credell Calhoun as vice president, the five-member board voted on whether to retain administrative staffers.

The board fired County Administrator **Carmen Davis**, who had been administrator since 2010. **Davis** had been a former Detroit city employee before moving to Mississippi. The county administrator runs the day-to-day operations of the county. The Board of Supervisors gave no reason for terminating **Davis**. The vote was 3-2, with supervisors Calhoun, Graham and David Archie voting not to retain **Davis**. The board named county employee James Ingram as a temporary replacement.

Supervisors Bobby McGowan and Vern Gavin voted to keep **Davis**. Gavin, who once was a Hinds County administrator, argued that the board was making a mistake. He said he hadn't seen anything she had done to warrant removal. Likewise, Gavin and McGowan voted against the motion not to retain then-Board attorney Pieter Teeuwissen. However, Archie, Calhoun and Graham voted to replace Teeuwissen. Scherrie Prince was named interim board attorney.

Gavin said he feared that the firing of **Davis** and Teeuwissen could impact the consent decrees the county signed with the U.S. Department of Justice to improve conditions in the county detention centers and juvenile justice center. Gavin said **Davis** and Teeuwissen have played integral parts in the negotiations with the federal government. Graham said the county will advertise for a permanent board attorney and county administrator.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press  
September 17, 2019

**JFP Questions Destruction of Public Records by Hinds County Board of Supervisors**

Author: Seyma Bayram

The Jackson Free Press is asking the Hinds County Board of Supervisors to delay its unanimous vote yesterday to dispose of documents relating to its former administrations as well as former County Administrator's files from 1984 to 2007 without specifying the number or the content of those documents. After reviewing the State of Mississippi's records-retention schedule and guidelines for local-government records, this newspaper today sent a letter to the board expressing concern that the decision could violate Mississippi's public-records law. Today's letter also asks the board to provide further explanation and documentation to ensure the legality of the order. The vote occurred during the Hinds County Board of Supervisors' bi-monthly meeting on Sept. 16, 2019, after the County Administrator's office addressed the board about an "Order to Approve the Disposal of Files Related to Former Administrations of the Board of Supervisors as well as Former County Administrator's Files for the Period of from the Years of 1984-2007 (sic), Formerly Stored at the Public Defender's Building, in Accordance with Hinds County's Storage, Retention and Disposal Policy Adopted in 2017." The board did not discuss its decision during the vote nor did it, to our knowledge to date, invite input from the public.

The Jackson Free Press has requested access to the amended 2017 policy to which the order refers as well as a list outlining exactly which files will be destroyed, whether or not any files have been disposed of since the vote yesterday, and whether the board discussed a plan to digitize any documents before destruction. The County Administrator's office had not answered these questions at press time.

**JFP Letter to Hinds Supervisors About Records Destruction**

As with all Mississippi counties, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors is bound to the State of Mississippi's Local Government Records protocols. Mississippi's guidelines state that Board of Supervisors must keep the following records permanently: agenda files; original orders, already recorded in minutes; committee minutes; proof of publication; grant files and program records; activity reports (permanently if annual reports are not maintained); annual reports; policies, procedures and plans; correspondence, executive (elected and appointed officials); certain litigation files relating to "annexation, civil rights and other landmark or historical issues"; and records disposal documentation.

The supervisors control all operations and funding for the Hinds County Detention Center and the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center. The Hinds County Detention Center, also known as the county jail, has been under a federal consent decree since 2016 after an investigation from the U.S. Department of Justice found that the jail infringes upon the constitutional rights of detainees through lengthy pretrial incarceration. Violence, infrastructural insecurity and mismanagement, among other systemic issues, also plague the facility in Raymond. The State of Mississippi updated many of the guidelines listed above, which the board must follow, in 2018,

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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suggesting that the updated guidelines supersede the 2017 policy to which the Board referred in its Monday vote. Board Attorney Pieter Teeuwissen told the Jackson Free Press today that he could not comment on the order, as it could violate attorney-client privilege, but that the county policy should follow state law. The Jackson Free Press also called the Hinds County Board of Supervisors' and County Administrator's offices, notifying them of our concerns surrounding the legality of the order and asking for additional information and documentation that would clarify whether or not the vote to approve the order was within the bounds of the law. District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham said today that he is confident that the order, based on 2017 county policy, followed state protocols. "I'm not familiar with the exact policy, the wording of the policy, but it is in accordance with the state policy on record retention. We are following the state law," he said to the Jackson Free Press this morning.

County Administrator **Carmen Y. Davis** echoed Graham's sentiments in a phone interview today. "It's not overriding the state law," she said. "It is reinforcing the policy within the county, encouraging all employees, officials and department heads to comply with the state law. So it's an internal policy making sure that we are disposing, retaining records correctly, according to state law ... and the state law is referenced in our policy."

LaVonne McGee, director of human and capital development at the County Administrator's Office, told the Jackson Free Press today that she believes confusion stems from the wording of the order, which she had drafted. "It (the 2017 county policy) has been amended. It was amended in 2018, and we sent that out ... and I just didn't put 'as amended' on the agenda item, and I apologize for that," she said. "The board approved on October 1 (2018) the incorporation of the amendments made by the Department of Archives and History into the county's 2017 policy," McGee said.

When asked whether the disposal of files from 1984 to 2007 was legal, **Davis** responded: "Well, our staff has reviewed it. If there's an issue with those individual files, we can review those. ... They (the staff) were supposed to process those according to the retention schedule of the state law, so we can review those to verify that." **Davis** added that there was "an attachment of files" detailing a list of exactly which files will be destroyed. She, however, did not immediately provide the attachment when requested. Files are destroyed immediately following an order such as Monday's, **Davis** said, adding that "since there is a question, we will hold off on destroying them, certainly, because we are not trying to be in violation of the law. And if there is a question about any of the files, I want to review them again just to make sure that we're not missing something."

The Jackson Free Press asked whether any files have been destroyed, yet. "I will have to check with the staff, I'm not sure," **Davis** responded. The Jackson Free Press sent the letter to the Hinds County Board of Supervisors outlining concerns and requesting further explanation for the order. You can read the letter here. We will provide more information from the board as it comes in.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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November 14, 2018

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
NORTHERN DIVISION

**J.H., et al., Plaintiffs,**  
**v.**  
**HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, Defendant.**

Civil Action No.  
3:11-cv-327-DPJ-FKB

ORAL ARGUMENT  
REQUESTED  
AMENDED MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE CONSENT DECREE AND  
A CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, CONTEMPT

The Plaintiffs, children confined at Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center (“HenleyYoung”),<sup>1</sup> respectfully submit this Amended Motion for An Extension of the Consent Decree and a Corrective Action Plan or, in the Alternative, Contempt (“the Motion”).<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Local Rule 7(b)(6)(A), the Plaintiffs respectfully request oral argument on this motion. 1. Hinds County (the “County”) for nearly seven years has failed to comply with key substantive provisions of the court-ordered consent decrees in this case,<sup>3</sup> including in the areas of suicide prevention, educational and rehabilitative programming, and medical care, resulting in ongoing violations of the federal rights of vulnerable and disabled children.<sup>4</sup>

[CB&A Note: The remainder of the case can be read here:  
[https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/documents/0131\\_pls\\_amended\\_motion\\_for\\_an\\_extension\\_of\\_the\\_consent\\_decree\\_and\\_corrective\\_action\\_plan\\_or\\_in\\_the\\_alternative\\_contempt.pdf](https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/documents/0131_pls_amended_motion_for_an_extension_of_the_consent_decree_and_corrective_action_plan_or_in_the_alternative_contempt.pdf)

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press

June 14, 2018

**Hinds County Criminal Justice Council Gets to Work**

Author: Arielle Dreher

JACKSON — A group of Jackson and Hinds County leaders has begun meeting bi-monthly to work on improvements to the adult and juvenile justice systems in the city and county, after Hinds County entered into a 2016 settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice. DOJ investigated the Raymond and Jackson detention centers in 2014, and the county's juvenile justice center, Henley-Young, was the subject of a federal lawsuit back in 2011. DOJ issued a findings letter in 2015 with concerns about inmate safety at the Raymond and Jackson facilities, alleging that the county was in violation of detainees' constitutional rights.

Hinds County Board of Supervisors attorney Pieter Teeuwissen said all the stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system need to figure out how to move people through the system faster. Right now, individuals can sit in jail for as long as four years, he said. "We need to figure out how to prioritize these individuals in these facilities," Teeuwissen told the Jackson Free Press. "... If they are not guilty, we shouldn't have them detained in less than appropriate conditions. If they are guilty, they are supposed to be processed through and put in the state correction system."

As a part of the settlement agreement, county and city stakeholders had to form the Hinds County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which is working to ensure that people do not get stuck in the jails for too long and that cases move through the system quickly. The council meetings do not have to be public, Teeuwissen said, but he believes they will be in the near future. The settlement agreement requires the county to recognize that "it must provide prisoners with adequate supervision and housing in order to prevent violence between prisoners and the use of excessive force by detention staff," the settlement agreement says. "The county also acknowledges that government detention is a serious infringement on the rights of citizens and other individuals, and is thus subject to constitutional rights."

County leaders must work to decrease the incarcerated population "particularly special-needs populations, such as individuals with serious mental illness and juveniles," the settlement agreement says. Teeuwissen said he thinks the council's work will be long-term. "I think that what you're seeing now is a work in progress," he said.

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors voted to formally recognize the Hinds County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council on May 21. The council is divided into five groups that will work on improvements to address behavioral health, case processing, jail population management, prisoner reentry and juvenile justice, a press release from the Administrative Office of the Courts says. Senior Circuit Judge Tomie Green and Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** co-chair the 19-member council. The other council members include:

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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- Hinds County Circuit Court Senior Judge
- Hinds County Chancery Court Senior Judge
- Hinds County Court Senior Criminal Judge
- Hinds County Youth Court Judge
- Hinds County Justice Court Senior Judge
- Jackson Municipal Court Senior Judge
- Hinds County District Attorney
- Hinds County Attorney
- Hinds County Sheriff
- Hinds County Administrator
- Jackson Mayor
- Jackson Police Chief
- Jackson City Prosecutor
- Hinds County Public Defender
- Hinds County Detention Center Warden
- Hinds County Juvenile Justice Center Director
- Hinds County Behavioral Health Director
- a representative of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors
- a representative of the Jackson City Council

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
August 8, 2017

**Mississippi Department of Revenue ending printing of auto tag renewal notices for counties**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

The Mississippi Department of Revenue will end printing auto tag renewal notices for counties later this year. “For at least 40 years, the Department of Revenue has printed the renewal card for the counties as a courtesy,” spokeswoman Katie Lawson said. “Each month, DOR prints the cards for the upcoming renewal month and mails those to the counties. The counties are then responsible for mailing those cards to the vehicle owners.

However, the number of counties DOR now prints renewal notices for is down to five, including the most populous, Hinds. The other 77 counties are using third-party vendors to print and mail renewal cards for them because they can get better postage rates, Lawson said. DOR sends an electronic file to the vendors so that they can print the cards for the counties. The other counties DOR prints renewal notices for are Choctaw, Scott, Sunflower and Washington.

The October renewal cards will be the last printed for the five counties. After that time, DOR will provide those counties with a pdf file that they can use to print the renewal information on standard letter-size paper for mailing to the vehicle owners. “That is because the DOR is launching a new motor vehicle tag and title system known as MARVIN,” said Lawson, referring to the Mississippi Automated Registration Vehicle Information Network. “MARVIN, a state-of-the-art, web-based system, will take the place of the current system, which was developed in 1980.” It will cost \$18.8 million to implement the new automated system, DOR said.

On Monday, Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** recommended the Hinds County Board of Supervisors hire Dallas Printing in Richland to begin printing renewal notices and mailing them out at 34 cents per card. Dallas, the only Mississippi company, was one of three companies the county received quotes from. **Davis** said Dallas was the first option. Peregrine of Monroe, Louisiana, was the second option. A Chattanooga, Tennessee, company also submitted a quote.

**Davis** said the board decided to hire Peregrine, which submitted the lowest quote of 30.9 cents per card. DOR says there are 195,129 motor vehicle registrations in Hinds County, and each year the agency would print that number of renewal cards. The renewal notices include the cost an auto owner will have to pay to renew their vehicle tag. The notice also breaks down the cost, such as how much property taxes go into the tag fee.

For the past year, the DOR has actively been communicating and meeting with all 82 counties in preparation for the implementation of MARVIN, Lawson said. Multiple training classes have already been held at the DOR for expert users and bookkeepers of each county. Computer-based training videos have been provided to the counties. Additionally, DOR’s training team will be

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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conducting classes for all system users in each tax collector’s office throughout the month of September, she said.

Washington County Tax Collector Patricia Lee said Tuesday she hasn't decided yet, but expects to select a third-party vendor to print and mail out roughly 2,500 cards a month in her county. Lawson said MARVIN will allow vehicle owners the ability to “opt-in” to receive email renewal notices rather than paper notices.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger

May 19, 2017

**Youth Court judge files another suit against Hinds County**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

Hinds County Youth Court Judge Bill Skinner is again suing the Hinds County Board of Supervisors over proposed cuts to the Youth Court budget. Skinner said in a complaint filed last week in Hinds County Circuit Court that the board met May 1 in executive session during a special session and adopted a budget of \$788,230.12 for Youth Court for the next fiscal year. The amount reflects a budget cut of \$183,000, more if fringe benefits for salaries is included.

Judge Skinner has filed a new lawsuit against the Hinds County Board of Supervisors . Sorie Tarawally, Skinner's attorney, says the complaint challenges the power and the constitutionality of the Board of Supervisors' action. "The actions, rulings and or decisions taken by the board on May 1, 2017, are ultra vires and illegal and in violation of the Youth Court Act, and its presiding judge's constitutional and statutory powers and duties as provided and guaranteed to him in the state constitution, laws and case precedent," Tarawally said in the complaint.

The complaint asks Hinds County's four circuit judges to recuse themselves from hearing the case, saying it may place the judges in conflict or their impartial judgment may be questioned. Those judges — Bill Gowan, Tomie Green, Winston Kidd and Jeff Weill — all have signed individual orders removing themselves from the case.

In September, Green threw out a similar lawsuit filed by Skinner who was seeking a temporary restraining order to prevent the board from cutting his budget by roughly \$183,000 in salaries and \$71,854 in fringe benefits for the current fiscal year. Green said in her ruling that, should there be a deficit at the Youth Court or a need to request board reconsideration, Skinner has numerous remedies. Green said Skinner failed to advance facts to sustain any public interests, irreparable harm or likelihood of prevailing on the merits for granting the motion.

Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** said in a letter to Skinner in September that, as a mandate to comply with a federally amended consent decree to meet mental health requirements at the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center, the Board of Supervisors reduced the Youth Court's salary with fringes budget. Skinner and the Board of Supervisors have been at odds over the last few years about control of the youth detention center.

As the senior County Court judge, Skinner has served primarily as Youth Court judge. Recently he signed an administrative order stipulating he will handle the Youth Court and criminal cases. County Judge Melvin Priester was assigned to handle civil appeals, and Judge LaRita Cooper Stokes will handle civil cases in County Court. The senior judge has the authority to make assignments for the court. Skinner became the senior county court judge after longtime Judge Houston Patton retired.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger

April 7, 2017

**Surprise! Hinds County property taxes rise**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** called it “unintended consequences” that county property taxes went up for residents in Jackson, Clinton and most other areas of the county without the public's knowledge. When county supervisors adopted the \$64.3 million general fund budget in September for the current fiscal year, **Davis** emphatically said in a Sept. 15 public hearing that there would be no tax increase. However, recently county officials said they weren't aware that decreasing taxes for garbage collection in unincorporated areas while increasing it for volunteer fire departments and economic development would lead to an overall higher property tax rate.

**Davis** and then-county finance and budget coordinator Lillie Woods put the budget together, said Hinds County Supervisor Peggy Hobson Calhoun, who has voiced displeasure with the tax increase. Hinds County Tax Assessor Charles Stokes informed county supervisors and others there would be an impact on property taxes for much of the county. Residents began seeing an increase with the property tax bills in December. Stokes said his own overall property taxes went up about \$19 a year, with about \$4.40 of that stemming from the tax increase. He said some property also increased in value because of the reappraisal of property in the county in 2016.

On a home valued at \$75,000 in Jackson, the county taxes increased by about \$7.50. However, the county tax increase coupled with a property tax increase by Jackson led to higher overall increases. The 2017 budget the Jackson City Council adopted in September include a property tax increase of 3 mills, which translates into a \$300 property tax increase for every \$100,000 of assessed value. While the Board of Supervisors approved the budget, Calhoun said some supervisors didn't know it included a tax increase. The only areas where taxes didn't go up were Byram, Learned and unincorporated areas of the county. Byram collects all of its own taxes since it re-incorporated as a city. Learned is a village, and as such isn't assessed taxes. With the reduction in garbage taxes, the property tax rate also didn't increase in unincorporated areas. By law, counties are required to advertise when there is a possibility of a tax increase even if it isn't one by supervisors.

Calhoun said the normal process is to document it in the minutes when there is tax increase. “We didn't announce a tax increase and didn't announce it to the public,” Calhoun said. Calhoun said some at-will employees, including the county administrator, had raises proposed in the budget. Rank-and-file employees received \$100-per-month, across-the-board raises. Initially, **Davis'** raise was set at \$18,000. The amount of the proposed raise was reduced and later rescinded for her and some other at-will employees. There is nothing the county can do about the tax increase this year, but it could be rescinded for the next budget year, which begins Oct. 1. District 4 Supervisor Mike Morgan voted against the budget when it was approved, saying the county continued to spend down its cash reserves to cover budget shortfalls.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
December 8, 2016

**Hinds to look at Medicaid for inmates**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

Hinds County will look to Medicaid for help to try to reduce inmate medical costs. Last year, Hinds County was hit with medical bills totaling more than \$258,000 for one inmate. Cortaia Washington was convicted in August 2015 of witness tampering for an altercation with a woman who had been a witness against Washington's brother in a case. After Washington's conviction, she ended up in Merit Hospital and then was transferred to the University of Mississippi Medical Center due to an illness from her sickle cell disease. The bills from the two hospitals totaled more than \$258,000.

Hinds County Supervisor Peggy Hobson Calhoun said through research she has learned that a federal rule allows Medicaid benefits to be paid for incarcerated inmates if they were eligible for Medicaid and part of the system prior to needing medical service. Calhoun said counties and cities haven't been taking advantage of the Medicaid program when it comes to inmate medical costs. However, Mississippi Division of Medicaid spokeswoman Erin Barham said Thursday federal law prohibits Medicaid payment for most health-care services provided to individuals while incarcerated under a policy known as the "inmate exclusion."

Barham said Medicaid cannot be used to pay for the care of inmates outside of a limited exception. Hinds County Supervisor Peggy Hobson Calhoun wants to look at Medicaid for inmates. "In Mississippi, anyone (including a person who may be incarcerated), first has to be categorically eligible for Medicaid," Barham said. "I think many detainees can be covered," Calhoun said. "I think most would be eligible." Calhoun said cited a federal rule change in 1997, which she said allows Medicaid benefits to be paid for incarcerated individuals. Also, hospitals would charge for in-patient services based on cheaper Medicaid rates, she said.

Calhoun said the county could realize real savings with the federal government defraying some of inmates medical costs. "Once out of jail, they can continue coverage," Calhoun said of Medicaid for inmates. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors approved this week a motion by Calhoun to have County Administrator **Carmen Davis** work with others to develop a Medicaid reimbursement program for inmates and a plan to get inmates signed up for Medicaid. **Davis** will bring a proposal back to supervisors. No deadline was given.

Calhoun said Hinds County's legislative agenda for the upcoming 2017 session, which begins Jan.3, will likely include a request asking that a regional hospital be constructed or open to care for inmates in the metro area with mental illness. Calhoun said the state Hospital at Whitfield only has 25 beds statewide for such inmates now. "In our detention center in Raymond, we are housing inmates with mental problems," Calhoun said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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October 31, 2016

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
NORTHERN DIVISION

CAUSE NO. 3:15-CV-911-DPJ-FKB

**GALE NELSON WALKER PLAINTIFF**

**VS.**

**ROBERT SHULER SMITH,**

Individually and in his official capacity as District Attorney of Hinds County, Mississippi; and  
Hinds County, Mississippi; and John or Jane Does 1-10 DEFENDANTS

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Plaintiff, GALE NELSON WALKER, by and through counsel, and files this Second Amended Complaint. Plaintiff brings this action to recover actual and punitive damages for violations of her First and Fourteenth Amendment rights and for state law claims of civil conspiracy, violation of the computer fraud and abuse act (CFAA), discharge in violation of public policy, invasion of privacy, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

[CB&A Note: The remainder of the case can be read here:

[https://jacksonfreepress.media.clients.ellingtoncms.com/news/documents/2017/01/03/proposed\\_second\\_amended\\_complaint.pdf](https://jacksonfreepress.media.clients.ellingtoncms.com/news/documents/2017/01/03/proposed_second_amended_complaint.pdf)

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press  
September 26, 2016

**Youth Court Judge Sues Hinds County Over Budget**

Author: Tim Summers Jr.

JACKSON — The Hinds County Board of Supervisors finds itself caught between two judges in their efforts to address issues at the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center. On Sept. 23, Hinds County Youth Court Judge William Skinner filed a lawsuit against the Hinds County Board of Supervisors in Hinds County Circuit Court. Skinner alleged that the county executive board overstepped its bounds when it approved a budget that moved funding and "four youth court staff positions to the detention facility," a decision the judge states is "beyond their power to do."

In a Sept. 16 letter the county administrator informed Skinner that the Youth Court would receive a reduction in funding of "\$183,446.64 in salaries and \$71,854.79 in fringes for four positions," in response to the federal court Amended Consent Decree's mandate to focus on mental health-care at Henley-Young. "The board is following a court order that was given to us by a higher judge, by a federal judge," District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham said before pushing all questions to the board's attorney, Pieter Teeuwissen. "But he advised us to really not say anything."

At the moment, the board, as the representative body of the county, is under the constraints of several binding legal agreements. They include an Amended Consent Decree decided as the result of a federal 2012 lawsuit that Disability Rights Mississippi and the Southern Poverty Law Center brought to address conditions at the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center. Graham said that with a federal judge on one side and the circuit court youth judge on the other, he could not comment either way. "It is a delicate issue," Graham said, stating that any budget moves were the result of the federal court orders. "Even at that, it is a part of a court order, too."

And, after receiving recommendations from mental-health consultant Dr. Lisa Boesky as part of that agreement, the Board decided to allocate around \$190,000 to address deficiencies in mental health care at the facility. "We're excited that the board has allocated some funding to meet those needs. I don't know if it is enough," Hinds County Board of Supervisors' attorney Pieter Teeuwissen said during a Sept. 15 interview, the same day the board approved its budget. "I don't think any of us know, yet, because we are starting from a clean sheet. I do think that that is a significant commitment." Teeuwissen did not respond to calls about the new lawsuit by press time.

In the Sept. 16 letter to Judge Skinner, Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Y. Davis** informed the judge of the details of the move. "As a part of the consent decree terms and according to Section XIII, Mental Health Care, it has been ordered that the County reallocate the funding for counselor positions within the Youth Court budget to the Detention Facility to provide appropriate and accessible mental health counselors and case management counselors to the residents for the development of the individualized treatment plans," the letter states. "As a

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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mandate to comply with the terms of the amended consent decree," the letter continues, "the Hinds County Board of Supervisors reduced the Youth Court's salary with fringes budget. This reduction consists of \$183,446.64 in salaries and \$71,854.79 in fringes for four positions." This cut will bring the court's budget down to \$255,301.43 for the next fiscal year. Skinner argues in his complaint that moving these positions will inevitably render the Youth Court without "essential personnel necessary for a functioning court." "Furthermore, Judge Skinner will show that there is only one counselor position funded from the county budget vote and not the four counselor positions that they are proposing to cut, so in essence they are cutting salaries and positions of personnel vital and necessary for the functioning of the court," Skinner wrote in his complaint.

Skinner outlines the structure of his court in the document as well. The youth court, he states, is made up of one director, two operations coordinators, three clerks, four deputy clerks, five youth counselor trainees, six youth counselors, seven youth counselors who serve as restitution officers, eight "youth counselor II" positions, nine "youth counselor III" positions, and ten "youth counselor I" positions, in addition to clerical support staff. He states that all of those are needed to help his court address the "well near seven thousand cases a year, which include abuse and neglect (4,000 to 5,000) and delinquency (2,000) and an assortment of other matters brought before it or complained of by a parent or person with interest in the affairs of the minor."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
September 16, 2016

**Almost \$4 million gap in Hinds County budget**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

Hinds County supervisors approved a \$64.3 million general fund budget for the next fiscal year that will give the county's roughly 830 employees an across-the-board, \$100-a-month raise beginning Jan. 1. But the budget will spend about \$4 million more than the county is projected to collect in revenue, one supervisor says. The county will use reserve money to balance the budget for the 2016-17 budget year, which begins Oct. 1. "It is inevitable that we will have to make some tough decision," said District 4 Supervisor Mike Morgan, the lone Republican on the board and the only one of the five supervisors to vote against the budget, which takes effect Oct. 1.

Morgan said the county continues to spend down reserve money. He said a \$10 million reserve in the bank two years ago will be reduced to \$4 million in the budget approved this week. Last year, supervisors approved a budget with a nearly \$5 million gap in expected revenue versus department requests. District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham said the county adopted a conservative budget, including one that increases the reserve fund by \$500,000, reduce debt services, provides a modest cost-of-living increase for employees, no tax increase and no layoffs or furloughs for employees.

County Administrator **Carmen Davis** said the county is at a turning point in its budget and is facing some challenges. Asked by District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham of plans to try to stabilize the county's budget situation, **Davis** said a vehicle replacement plan is under consideration to cut maintenance costs. She also said the county will determine whether some permit and zoning fees should be increased. One thing the county could be hit with in the new budget year is expenses to meet a federal consent decree for the Hinds County Detention Center in Raymond as well as the one in Jackson and the juvenile justice center.

The Department of Justice and Hinds County reached a settlement in June stemming from a federal investigation that found the Hinds County jail had violated inmates' constitutional rights. U.S. District Judge William Barbour has approved the settlement and hiring of a monitor to track the county's compliance with the agreement. Lillie Woods, the county's budget and finance coordinator, said \$120,000 was put in the budget for the jail monitor. Last year, a Justice Department investigation found the jail lacked adequate staffing and training and failed to protect prisoners from violence and excessive force. Because of a record-filing backlog, inmates also were imprisoned past their release dates, according to the investigation.

The settlement will require the county to improve staffing, supervision of inmates and the physical plant; to limit segregation; to increase access to treatment and services for special-needs prisoners; and to improve mental health and youth services. **Davis** and Woods said a highlight of the budget is no county tax hike. The raises will cost the county approximately \$787,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger

July 7, 2016

**Hinds County may give up park where naked men roamed**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

Hinds County may relinquish control of the notorious Parham Bridges Park South off of I-55 South where arrests were made in the 1980s amid complaints of naked men running through the woods and performing lewd acts in parked cars and restrooms. Parham Bridges Park South, not to be confused with the Parham Bridges Park in Northeast Jackson, has been closed on and off for regular use for decades but remains a park. Hinds County has done some maintenance there over the years. However, Pieter Teeuwissen, attorney for the county Board of Supervisors, said the needs at the park today outstrip the available resources.

In 1962, W.P. Parham Bridges Sr. donated the property to Hinds County with the stipulation that it be used as a public park. The deed said that if the property isn't used as a public park, the 35 acres will revert to the family. About 15 years ago, Bridges' son, W.P. Parham Bridges Jr., sought to reclaim the land, saying it had gone years without being used as a park. Parham Bridges Jr. said Friday he never wanted to get the land back. He said he would remove the restriction that the land be used as a park if the county could find a way to use it for the public good.

Hinds County increased its efforts to revive the park when the younger Bridges threatened to take the property back because it wasn't being used. The county constructed new restrooms and said the facility was open by request for family reunions and anniversary gatherings. Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** said this week that the park hasn't been used in years. "It lends itself to those who want to do unsavory activity," **Davis** said.

Teeuwissen said county officials have been discussing over the last month what to do about the park. He said the county will have to identify funding to upgrade the park, which could be as much as six figures, or should relinquish rights to park and return the land to the Bridges family. "I don't think we need to let this linger," Teeuwissen said of a decision on the future of the park. Teeuwissen said the park is close to Jackson but the capital city has shown no interest in acquiring the park. He said Jackson already has about 65 parks and he doesn't think the city has any interest in adding another one. **Davis**, Teeuwissen and other county officials say a decision will be made during upcoming county budget hearings.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
November 19, 2015

**Historic records in danger**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

The court records from the original trial in 1964 of Byron De La Beckwith in the slaying of civil rights leader Medgar Evers are stored in paper files or binders somewhere in Hinds County. Officials just aren't sure exactly where. Deputy Clerk Lee Myers explains that a shortage of suitable storage areas means that court records are stored in any available space at the Hinds County Courthouse in Jackson, including this fourth-floor HVAC area. Water leaks from the roof and windows and mold and mildew have damaged many of the documents.

There are shelves and storage rooms full of old court records in the Hinds County Courthouse and other locations in the county. Some of those records can never be destroyed, according to state law. However, many are in danger from storage in leaky rooms, leading to mildew and mold. Beckwith was tried twice in 1964 in the June 12, 1963, shooting death of Evers, who was shot in the back after he got out of his car in the driveway of his Jackson home while his wife and three small children were inside the house. Each of the trials in 1964 ended in hung juries when an all-white jury couldn't reach a decision.

In 1994, 30 years after his original trials, Beckwith was convicted of killing Evers after the case was reopened. He was sentenced to life in prison. Beckwith died in prison in 2001 at the age of 80. Old court records, such as the Beckwith trial records from 1964, were kept in large binder books. Some records date back to the 1893. NaCola James of the Hinds County Human Capital Development Office said the county has files stacked from floor to ceiling in some storage areas, but water leaks from the roof and windows and mold and mildew have damaged many of the documents. "Stacking boxes upon top of each other is compromising our records," James said. "There is no protection for our historic records."

Longtime Hinds County Circuit Clerk Barbara Dunn, who is retiring in January, said once the county had a storage area infested with bats, but that storage facility is no longer used. James and Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** said they would like the county to have an archive location to house historic records. "We need a storage facility," said Hinds County Supervisors' President Tony Greer. The county is considering a building on McRaven Road. Supervisor Peggy Hobson Calhoun said the county won't be able to buy enough storage for records. Calhoun said the county should seek help from the Legislature to find a solution. "There needs to be better way," Calhoun said. "We have paper everywhere."

**Davis** said that is the reason the county should have its own archival system. James said the county approached the Mississippi Department of Archives and History about taking the historic county records but was told the department currently doesn't have enough storage space.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
September 15, 2015

**Hinds County budget won't fill some positions**

Author: Jimmie E. Gates

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors has approved a \$58.3 million general fund budget that doesn't increase taxes, but will leave about 51 vacant positions unfunded including 36 in the sheriff's department. Board of Supervisors President Tony Greer, who voted no on the budget, complains it doesn't go far enough to curb spending in the county. The county has a gap of about \$5 million in expected revenue versus department requests for the 2015-2016 budget year, which begins Oct. 1. The county will use reserve money to balance the budget.

Greer had proposed eliminating some vacant positions as a way to save money and balance the budget. The overall county budget is \$107 million, with \$58.3 of that for the general fund, which comes from tax revenue. "I feel like we are bloated when it comes to employees," Greer said. Greer voted no on the budget. He was joined by Supervisor Robert Graham in voting no, but they had different reasons for casting no votes. Graham said he was opposed to not funding the positions, especially in the sheriff's department, considering all the jail problems the county has had over the last couple years. About 12 of the positions are at the Jackson Detention Center.

Supervisors Peggy Hobson Calhoun, Darrel McQuirter and George Smith voted for the budget. Calhoun said if the sheriff comes to the board with a request to hire certain employees, there is money in the reserve funds to pay for the employees. Calhoun said the county's only two options were not to fill vacancies or to raise taxes, and she wasn't going to vote to raise property taxes. All five supervisors said they were opposed to raising taxes.

County Administrator **Carmen Davis** said the budget was a challenge with declining revenue. She said revenue has been on the decline over the last two years. Smith, who is interim District 5 supervisor, said adopting a balanced budget, one where revenue and expenditures are in line, could do more harm than good because the county is in the business of providing service to residents. The county is also concerned that it could be hit with additional expenditures in the future to satisfy requirements of consent decrees with the U.S. Department of Justice on the adult detention centers and the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Wjtv.com  
May 4, 2015

**Hinds County to fix broken windows inmates used to escape; 1 still at large**

Author: Kristen Lambertsen

JACKSON, Miss. – Hinds County authorities are still searching for a teen after he and two others broke out of the Jackson Detention Center over the weekend. The Hinds County Sheriff's Department tells us they are looking for 17-year-old William Smith. Smith and two other inmates, 17-year-old Antwain Dukes and 18-year-old Gerome Moore escaped from the jail out of a broken window. Dukes and Moore are back in custody. Dukes and Moore were arrested in January in connection to dozens of crimes in Jackson, including multiple carjacking's and the shooting death of Carolyn Temple. One month ago, four teens escaped the downtown jail.

**Carmen Davis**, the County Administrator, said six broken windows could be fixed this week and the sheriff's department says that includes the window used in this weekend's jailbreak. In the meantime deputies are posted outside the jail to make sure no one escapes or brings contraband into the facility. The extra security is 24/7, Sheriff Tyrone Lewis said. The board approved \$100,000 for repairs on April 6. However, the sheriff says no repairs have been made since that time.

WJTV asked him why inmates are housed in cells with broken windows. "I want to make sure I'm very clear," he said. "Every window in that facility is deficient. Every window can be compromised and all the inmates know that so we're in a hurry up and wait situation, until we can get these windows fixed." Earlier this year 21 windows were repaired but **Davis** said 171 windows still need to be repaired.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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wjtv.com

April 29, 2015

**Two Arrested for Trying to Sneak Drugs into Hinds County Jail Downtown**

Author: Kristen Lambertsen

For the second straight week the Hinds County Sheriff's Department made a late-night bust outside of their downtown jail. Authorities stopped a group of people Tuesday around 9:30 p.m. who they say were trying to sneak drugs into the building. Sheriff Tyrone Lewis says his deputies recovered about an ounce of marijuana, some packages of spice, lighters, and cigarettes from a small rolled up package. A weapon and scale were also found in the vehicle used by the suspects.

Sheriff Lewis declined to go into detail about how the two men were arrested while trying to get the items behind bars. He only went as far to say the suspects were caught outside with the help of street-side surveillance. "But we're pretty proud of the measures we put in place and we're going to continue this effort until the county administrator decides she's going to move forward and fix the flaws of this building so we won't have to take these extra precautions," Sheriff Lewis said. He is criticizing Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** on the funding issue.

Two suspects were placed under arrest and will be charged with attempting to introduce contraband to a correctional facility. 24-year-old Joshua Ledbetter and 25-year-old Dominique Griffin are in the custody of authorities. Sheriff Lewis says one more person is on the run. That person's name is Kimandre Davis and authorities are currently working on making an arrest.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
February 25, 2015

**Supervisor: No data compromised in Hinds cyber attack**

Authors: Harold Gater, and Dawn Dugle

**Hinds hacked**

The Hinds County website was the victim of a cyber attack Wednesday morning, however Hinds County District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham says it does not appear at this time any data was compromised. For a few minutes, a strange image appeared in the middle of the Hinds website saying "Hacked by Hamzah Uygun. F\*\*\* Israel and Usa."

Graham says he discovered that the website had been hacked shortly after 8 a.m. He contacted Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis** and together they determined who needed to be notified. IT workers were called along with supervisors, the Hinds County Sheriff's Dept., FBI and other metro area governments. Graham says they take the attack "very seriously."

Hinds County District 3 Supervisor Peggy Calhoun says that most data on the website is public information and there is no reason for the attack which she described as "malicious." There were also claims of the attack being from AnonGhost - whose Facebook page lists it as a "Defacer and a Computer Hacking Crew" from "Worldwide Anonymous." In November, the self-proclaimed Pro-Palestine hackers defaced the website of the United Nations and 120 other government sites. The site provider, U.S. Next, took the site down and reposted it using a previous version of the website. Graham added that it appears that it was not a county server that was hacked.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press  
November 3, 2014

**Stokes, Graham Blast New Jail Planning Committee**  
Author: R.L. Nave

In response to the seemingly never-ending bad news out of the Raymond Detention Center, county officials this morning took an incremental first step toward finding a solution. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors voted today to form an ad hoc committee to assess the condition of the jail and to develop a plan for alleviating its lingering problems. In recent years, inmate uprisings, escapes, suspicious deaths and allegations of corruption have plagued the jail. The new committee will consist of District 4 Supervisor Tony Greer, who will chair the body, along with Board Attorney Pieter Teeuwissen, County Administrator **Carmen Davis**, Sheriff Tyrone Lewis and representatives from each of the county's five districts.

Even though it passed, the plan drew criticism. District 5 Supervisor Kenneth Stokes, who has long advocated for the construction of a new county jail, objected to forming the committee and its proposed makeup, as well as to having Greer as its chairman. Stokes said the county should hire professional engineers and architects to conduct planning for a new detention facility instead of political appointees. The jail has been embroiled in political controversy for many years. The controversy has grown more intense since Stokes joined the board after serving on the Jackson City Council. Stokes has often been publicly critical of Lewis, who oversees the jail's day-to-day functions. In the meantime, two Hinds County grand juries have delivered damning reports about the safety and security inside the jail. The U.S. Department of Justice is also looking into the conditions at county-run jails.

Most recently, Lewis and Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith locked horns over the alleged leak of erroneous grand jury indictment information to reporters. Lewis and members of his staff appeared on a local radio show to criticize the DA's office for putting together weak cases that failed to result in criminal indictments. Smith's contempt motion claimed that a list of unindicted cases provided to the media included the name of an individual who was indicted on another charge. In late October, Smith dropped the contempt citation after Lewis' office assured him that the release of the grand jury information was a mistake and that it would not happen again.

District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham seems to quibble with the idea that a new jail would solve the county's crime problems. "Do we just spend money on top of money on top of money in jail? When does it stop? We're just spinning our wheels," Graham said. No timeline was announced for when the new committee would commence its meetings.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press

October 3, 2014

**DA Robert Smith Called Grand Jury That Criticizes Sheriff Tyrone Lewis**

Author: R.L. Nave

Robert Shuler Smith, the Hinds County district attorney, empaneled the grand jury that delivered a damning report of Sheriff Tyrone Lewis's supervision of the Raymond Detention Center. Several media outlets, including the Jackson Free Press, reported that Hinds County Senior Circuit Judge Tomie Green—who called a grand jury together in 2013 after an uprising that left a housing pod unusable, the subsequent death of a prisoner named Larry David McLaurin and other incidents of unrest—empaneled the grand jury that delivered its findings yesterday, Oct. 3.

In an email to the Jackson Free Press this morning, Green clarified that it was a grand jury Smith empaneled in July 2014 that inspected the jail and delivered its findings to Green late yesterday afternoon. Calls to Smith's office as well as to Lewis' spokesman Othor Cain were not immediately returned this morning. The four-page grand jury report followed inspections of the jail as well as the Hinds County Courthouse and concluded that "after hearing from (Lewis) and his team, we are of the opinion that Sheriff Lewis is incompetent to oversee the jail or keep pretrial detainees or state inmates safe in a manner or to keep the public safe from inmates."

In their report, grand jurors note that during an inspection of the facility, they observed "the immediate after effects of arson" as well as a prisoner who exposed himself and another prisoner who possessed a cell phone, which they pointed out is a felony. In addition, the jail lacked an adequate number of jailers, and the guards on duty were frightened of the inmates. "The inmates seemed to be in control of the jail as a result of the shortage," grand jurors wrote.

The grand jury also noted other health and safety concerns, including mildewed tiles in the prisoner's shower area, cell doors stuffed with toilet paper to prevent them from locking, several cracked glass windows and areas where lights do not work properly. The control and booking room requires new cameras and monitors and has several areas that are moldy, jurors observed. The U.S. Department of Justice announced June 2 that the agency would open a "pattern or practice investigation" of both the Raymond Detention Center and the Jackson Detention Center downtown. A DOJ press release stated the investigation would focus "on whether Hinds County protects prisoners from harm at the hands of other prisoners and staff" and "improper use of force." Judge Green said the probe is ongoing.

Lewis has long complained that his difficulty maintaining the building stems from the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator **Carmen Davis** holding the purse strings to the jail and must approve all repairs. Judge Green empaneled a grand jury last year, she said, because a thorough inspection of the jail had not taken place since 2008. It found "a great deal of ongoing conflict in this 'arranged marriage' between the county and the sheriff." "The sheriff claims that the County has failed to adequately maintain the basic maintenance needs of the facility. When they need a repair, a work order is submitted, but the County is slow to make the needed repair.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The result is a facility that is in disarray in its basic electric, plumbing, smoke alarm, control boards, ventilation and security systems," they wrote. In the most recent report, grand jurors also inspected the Hinds County Courthouse and found that "it is in good and safe condition," except for its outdated cameras and poorly functioning elevators, which have been a frequent source of conversation among county supervisors. Grand jurors also observed several areas of water damage, including "a constant drip from the ceiling that is damaging the clerk's office." The JFP uncovered similar problems at the courthouse causing damage to thousands of files. Hinds County Circuit Clerk Barbara Dunn denies that any documents are at risk. Yesterday evening, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors called an emergency meeting, which Smith attended briefly, and went into executive session to discuss the report but announced no action.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
September 30, 2014

**Hinds County budget includes layoffs**

Hinds County's recently approved budget included elimination of seven administrative jobs. Employees received termination letters on September 15th, WLBT reported. Hinds County administrator, **Carmen Davis**, says the county could not continue to pay the salaries totaling about \$270,000 annually. "It was a 3-2 vote to accept the budget as it was and that did eliminate our positions," said Pamela Young, a laid off worker. Young was an administrative assistant at the Hinds County Department of Human Services.

"These are employees that work for the state but are funded by the county and it just come to a point that the county could no longer afford to fund the state operation. We definitely tried to get them a heads up," **Davis** said. Hinds County is operating with a general fund of \$54 million dollars but officials say they are always looking for ways to reduce costs. **Davis** says the state government is picking up some of the positions.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press  
May 14, 2014

**SPLC Blasts Henley-Young Plan**

Author: R.L. Nave

After receiving a reprimand for its management of the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center, Hinds County officials have come up with a solution to the ongoing legal problems, one that has raised sharp criticism from youth advocates. In late April, U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan found Hinds County in contempt of court for failure to comply with a 2012 settlement over abusive conditions and lack of access to educational services at the youth detention center.

At the time, a federal court ordered the county to improve in more than 70 "areas of deficiency" that ranged from basic cleanliness to expanding mental health and rehabilitative services at the 84-bed facility; a monitor was appointed to document the progress. However, those monitoring reports show—and attorneys for the plaintiffs agree—that little progress has been made. Jordan agreed as well. As a result, he not only extended the consent decree for two more years but also found that the county was in contempt of court.

In his order, Jordan wrote that while the initial two-year deadline was probably too little time to make all the needed fixes, "many of the 71 requirements should have been accomplished long before now." "(W)e are faced with a large task and possible incompetence. That said—and this needs to be clearly understood—the progress thus far is unacceptable," Jordan wrote. During a closed-door executive session held May 5, supervisors voted to transfer operation the county voted to turn Henley-Young's daily operation over to Hinds County Judge William Skinner, who supervises the county' youth court program.

Under that arrangement, which could take effect as soon as June 1, the county would maintain the physical building but the detention center's administrator would report directly to Skinner. Currently, Henley-Young Administrator Brenda Frelix reports to Hinds County Administrator **Carmen Davis**; **Davis** reports to the five-member board of supervisors.

Hinds officials have long complained that the involvement of several agencies—the county, the courts and Jackson Public Schools—in Henley-Young's operation creates a bureaucratic nightmare, making it hard to comply with court orders. "It's a house divided," District 2 Supervisor Darrel McQuirter told the Jackson Free Press in an interview last week. Jody Owens, managing attorney of the Mississippi Southern Poverty Law Center, which represented plaintiffs in the 2012 suit, called putting the youth detention center under Skinner's direction "crazy" and a "conflict of interest" because children require specialized care and mental-health treatment.

"There are people who specialize in youth detention, and Judge Skinner does not fit that mold," Owens said. Besides, Owens points out, Skinner was in charge of Henley-Young until 2009 when the Hinds County Board of Supervisors stripped him of that authority amid questions about his management of the facility. District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham said at the time the board

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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"received information that we believe were federal violations regarding the operation of the center." The Mississippi State Supreme Court sanctioned Skinner in August 2013 for issuing a pair of bench warrants in a child-custody case that he'd recused himself from because a court employee was related to one of the litigants. The state's high court found Skinner had abused his power and suspended him for 30 days without pay and a \$1,000 fine.

Owens said SPLC attorneys could take Hinds County back to court in less than six months if they do not see substantial progress on the consent decree's benchmarks, which the county must still meet no matter who is running the detention center. "They can't pass their accountability to Judge Skinner," Owens said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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WAPT.com

July 19, 2013

**Sheriff says other county leaders accountable for jail problems  
Inmates flood cells at Hinds County Detention Center**

JACKSON, Miss. — The Hinds County Administrator is firing back after the sheriff said other county leaders are accountable for problems at his jail. Inmates flooded a pod of cells with water Thursday. "It's an issue that we deal with every day, where inmates tend to flood our cells. It happens every day," Hinds County Sheriff Tyrone Lewis said. Dozens of Hinds County deputies rushed to the Detention Center in Raymond after an employee called for backup. "This particular employee overreacted and made an unnecessary call," Lewis said.

Lewis said inmates in Pod A broke out of their cells and flooded that area of the jail. He said no one was injured. "We're still dealing with the same old maintenance issues," Lewis said. Video shot by a jail guard showed maintenance problems in June. Inmates can be seen running freely through a pod after popping the locks on their cell doors. One month later, inmates in Pod C broke out of their cells and started a riot that lasted 10 hours. Lewis said maintenance at the jail is out of his power. He said his department must send maintenance requests to county leaders before anything so much as a light bulb is fixed. Lewis said these types of inmate problems will continue until the doors are fixed. "The maintenance director is not being held accountable to maintain this facility the way it should be maintained," Lewis said.

County Administrator **Carmen Davis** oversees the maintenance director. **Davis** said in a statement released Friday that she is disturbed that the sheriff said his requests for repairs have been ignored. "All of the locks were repaired or replaced last summer as identified by the sheriff. The repairs have not been ignored," **Davis** said. **Davis** said the work orders presented to the Maintenance Department have been completed. "Our policy is that a Detention Center employee must sign off on the work order to confirm that the repairs have been completed. This policy ensures and affirms that work orders are not ignored," **Davis** said. "Work orders are handled on an ongoing basis primarily because inmates are constantly destroying county property."

**Davis** said she has work orders from Detention Center and maintenance staff that says inmates are damaging the facility. "More specifically, maintenance staff reported and recorded that the locks were not functioning properly due to inmates jamming the locks with everyday objects or materials," **Davis** said. The county made fixing door locks a priority. She said a vendor repaired the locks last summer and is still at the Detention Center working on other aspects of the doors. **Davis** said she has shared several of her concerns about inmates damaging county property with Lewis but has not received a response from him about how he plans to address the problem.

Lewis said his proposed budget for next year seeks \$500,000 to create a maintenance department withing the Sheriff's Office. He wants to hire, train and be in charge of getting things fixed around the jail. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the budget proposal in September.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clarion Ledger  
November 28, 2012

**Investigation into Jackson courthouse bomb threat continues**

Author: Ruth Ingram

Officials with the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security today are continuing an investigation into who called in a bomb threat Tuesday targeting the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse and why. Employees of the building in downtown Jackson were evacuated for about three hours after the call came in to Jackson police's dispatch. Hinds County Sheriff's Department deputies cleared and secured the building, paving the way for Homeland Security staff to search the building for anything pertaining to the threat. At least three Jackson Fire Department engines were on standby as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal and K9 units scanned the area. Nothing was found, and employees were allowed to return at about 3:30 p.m.

Jay Ledbetter, director of the Mississippi Homeland Security office, was not immediately available for comment this morning. That agency is taking the lead on the investigation; on Tuesday, multiple agencies including Jackson police and the Sheriff's Department were on hand to close down streets surrounding the courthouse, direct traffic and facilitate the search for explosives. Throughout the episode, Hinds County administrator **Carmen Davis** coordinated putting the county's evacuation plan into action and kept supervisors and others updated on law officers' actions in ensuring the Chancery Court building was safe. She could not immediately be reached for comment today.

It's still unknown if there is a connection to the threat in Jackson and bomb threats called in Tuesday affecting 30 courthouses across Tennessee. They also forced employees to evacuate and local law enforcement agencies to respond to what one Tennessee sheriff's department's deputy chief said amounted to domestic terrorism. Not just Tennessee, but states including Oregon, Nebraska and Washington also have received bomb threats this month targeting courthouses. Around 10 a.m. Tuesday, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency received a phone call that a bomb had been placed in a local courthouse. By 3:30 p.m., 30 courthouses had received bomb threats, said agency spokesman Dean Flener. No arrests were made, and no bombs were found. "We take bomb threats very seriously," he said. "We get bomb threats throughout the year, sometimes at schools and sometimes courthouses."

Law officers in Jackson were investigating a report from a person giving possible information related to who made the call, but details weren't being released as part of the ongoing probe. Hinds County District 1 Supervisor and board president Robert Graham said Tuesday that law officers "have no indication that it was related to the matter in Tennessee ... Of course, you are always subject to having individuals who are copycats."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Mississippi Link

October 30, 2012

**Hinds Co. workers get relief on insurance cost**

Author: Monica Land

JACKSON – (AP) Hinds County supervisors have voted 3-2 to keep the contract approved earlier this month with United Healthcare and its local representative, Bottrell Insurance. The new contract lowers employees' health insurance deductible from a staggering \$5,000 to a low of \$500 but more than doubles their monthly premiums, from \$73 for a single employee to \$173. The board voted this month to absorb about \$44 of the cost per month per employee.

County Administrator **Carmen Davis** told The Clarion-Ledger that's possible because the county budgeted for an 8 percent increase in its share of the health insurance cost, and that cost ended up not rising. The 8 percent would equal about \$44 per employee per month.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press  
September 17, 2012

**Calhoun Wants Action at Juvenile Center**

Author: R.L. Nave

A Hinds County supervisor wants know what's being done to fix problems at the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center. District 3 Supervisor Peggy Hobson-Calhoun directed county administrator **Carmen Davis** to provide a list of corrective actions taken at the beleaguered youth jail. A complaint from the Southern Poverty Law Center and Disability Rights Mississippi alleged that the center's staff subjected the children to physical and verbal abuse. It resulted in a March 2012 settlement between the county and plaintiffs. Under the agreement, children entering the facility were to receive mental-health evaluations, counseling, better rehabilitation options, input from family and advocates, and more time outside their cells.

As of August, however, the county has not addressed many basic issues in the settlement, according to a report from court-appointed monitor and juvenile-justice expert Leonard B. Dixon. Dixon points to inadequate staffing that keeps the jail in "perpetual lock-down mode" and high leadership turnover at the facility as one explanation for the county's difficulty in maintaining a safe and secure environment. That the jail has had three directors in as many years, Dixon said, "creates instability, chaos and a lack of direction." The building--located on East McDowell Road in Jackson--is also in poor condition and is in need of extensive maintenance, Dixon wrote.

The Hinds County website displays a job announcement for entry-level juvenile-detention officers. The job description lists tasks varying from subduing violent prisoners and performing life-saving measures to serving snacks, washing walls and cleaning toilets. The job pays \$1,643.63 per month, less than \$20,000 annually. District 4 Supervisor Kenneth Stokes said he's heard stories of cooks and groundskeepers sometimes filling in to keep an eye on youth inmates. Stokes renewed his oft-repeated call to ask the city of Jackson, whose residents represent the majority of inmates housed in county facilities, to pitch in and help pay for the needed changes.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press

July 2, 2012

**Update: Jail Fixes Cost \$1.3 Mil**

Author: JFP Staff

The Hinds County Detention Center at Raymond is getting a facelift, but it won't necessarily put an end to the security problems that have plagued the facility. With little discussion, Hinds County supervisors agreed to spend \$1.3 million from a 2007 bond issue to make repairs at the jail. In recent months, several escapes from the jail and media reports showing its shoddy condition put pressure on officials to make much-needed fixes. Among the "major repairs" **Davis** said the county plans to make are fixing doors in the housing pods, replacing a water tank at the health department's request, installing a new dishwasher and kitchen floors, fixing shower valves, installing razor wire, and installing and fixing cameras.

District 5 Supervisor Kenneth Stokes warned that making the improvements wouldn't mean that escapes would stop or that no future repairs would be needed. County Administrator **Carmen Davis** said her office would start looking into replacing the jail and talking to the city of Jackson about pitching in. Supervisors have complained that because the majority of detainees are Jackson residents, the city should pay more for housing its inmates there. She added that maintenance at the 24-hour-a-day operation has long been a challenge, in part because "the facility was not built to the proper standards in the first place." "That's the nature of the business," **Davis** said of corrections. "Inmates may not handle the facility like we would handle our homes.

Also, back in January, Hinds County Emergency Operations Center director Jimmie Lewis got fired and supervisors voted to rehire him a few minutes later. Today, he was fired again. Hinds County District 1 Supervisor and board president Robert Graham waited until the end of today's supervisors meeting to air several longstanding complaints against Lewis' management of the EOC. According to Graham, Lewis failed to apply for "millions" of dollars worth of grants for which the county is eligible and didn't satisfactorily respond to Graham's requests for information.

District 5 Supervisor Kenneth Stokes was the only board member who voted against Lewis' firing. District 3 Supervisor Peggy Calhoun did not attend, but did participate in portions of the meeting via a teleconferencing system. The board then voted to rehire Ricky Moore, who previously worked for the EOC, and sued the county in 2010 for racial discrimination when supervisors tapped Lewis, who is black, over Moore, who is white, to lead the department. Joey Perkins will serve as the EOC's interim director until Moore is formally hired.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Carmen Y. Davis**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Mississippi Link  
June 27, 2012

**Hinds sheriff criticizes county after jail escapes**

Author: Monica Land

JACKSON – (AP) Hinds County Sheriff Tyrone Lewis is criticizing other county officials for not doing enough to repair the county’s troubled jail. Lewis says mounting maintenance problems aren’t being addressed, although administrators and county supervisors are aware there’s a crisis. The recently-elected sheriff led reporters on a tour of the Raymond Detention Center Friday, hours after another inmate escaped. That’s the third escape in three months. Lewis and Chief Deputy Chris Picou say that dozens of cell door locks are broken, meaning inmates can get out at will. They want county supervisors to hire a company that specializes in jail repairs to fix the problems.

Frederick Destache, the inmate who escaped early Friday, was captured about 30 minutes later at a nearby gas station after a struggle with deputies, the sheriff said. Supervisors, for their part, voted 3-2 Monday to close the Raymond facility and build a new one. But they set no timeline and it’s unclear how the county would pay for the \$30 million to \$45 million needed to replace the 1994 jail. “Until the maintenance department of Hinds County steps up to the plate and makes these corrections, we are going to continue to have inmates escaping and employees resigning and afraid to come to work,” Lewis said in the wake of Destache’s escape through a broken grate in his holding cell. He then walked through a maintenance room, then left via double doors that didn’t lock.

Supervisors and county administrators say they’re filling work requests given to them by Lewis. They say recent escapes should not be blamed on maintenance woes but on lack of vigilance by Lewis’ staff. “We want to make sure the public is aware that we’re taking full responsibility to fulfill our maintenance duties, and we have a process and are handling it with urgency,” said County Administrator **Carmen Davis**. “The concern he (Lewis) expressed today is news to me.” The department has a shortage of guards, and those on staff are poorly trained, Lewis said. The sheriff would not say how many more are needed, citing security concerns. According to records obtained by The Clarion-Ledger, 24 people identified as detention or correction officers left the department between Jan. 1 and May 31. Of those, 12 were fired, nine resigned and three retired.

On July 2, supervisors will vote on spending more than \$1.2 million in money from a 2007 bond issue on immediate jail repairs. “The items in the Power Point presentation are the ones being addressed,” **Davis** said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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<https://www.therecycler.com/posts/us-county-audit-finds-surplus-cartridges-worth-35000/>

The Recycler.com

January 16, 2012

**US county audit finds surplus cartridges worth \$35,000**

Officials in Hinds County in Jackson, Mississippi, found over \$35,000 (€27,661) in surplus ink and toner cartridge supplies, according to the Clarion Ledger. Fisher stated: “It had been bought and just squirreled away. They’ve been sticking it in closets for years, and nobody’s said anything. It’s absurd for taxpayers to be paying for this. “It’s a small example of how the county refuses to do a performance audit and messes over the people who pay for government.”

A number of administrators stated that the stock was the result of a conversion to electronic scanning and emailing from copying and faxing in 2008. Robert Graham, Supervisor’s President of District 1 in the county, excused the stockpile, adding: “This is the expected result of when we changed to a new system. It’s like meat in the refrigerator. It doesn’t mean it wasn’t going to be eaten, but you got something better.”

The discovery came at a bad time for the county, which has been borrowing from emergency and bond funds to pay bills, and Fisher added that his original audit was to establish which printing and copying devices were needed in the county offices to save money. County Administrator **Carmen Davis** performed the audit, and noted that 22 printers had been removed, others were necessary, amounting to 10 percent of the county’s devices, and noted that 43 percent of the surplus was ordered before the county’s conversion, with a 55 percent reduction in consumables expenses since.

**Davis** added: “We’ve gone to departments and have conducted an evaluation, and we’ve relinquished some desktop printers. The whole point of that contract was to reduce the ink and toner cartridge use. We’ve cut our costs down substantially.” County Supervisor Peggy Hobson Calhoun added: “If it was after the conversion, it’s a lack of monitoring and management of the employees. “If these things were ordered prior to that, you could make some justification for having it. I’m pleased we are taking measures to sell the supplies.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press  
September 19, 2011

**Calhoun: Jails Becoming Mental Health Centers**

Author: Valerie Wells

Hinds County wants help dealing with a rising population of incarcerated prisoners who suffer from substance abuse and mental health issues. The board of supervisors passed a resolution today formally asking legislators to support the development of a "behavioral health treatment court collaborative" in the 2012 session. "Jails are becoming mental-health crisis centers," Peggy Hobson Calhoun, supervisor for District 3, said at this morning's meeting. Jails are not equipped to provide necessary health care for drug abusers, alcoholics and the mentally ill, she said, but counties carry the burden of providing that care. "This is a good opportunity to request help," she said.

County Administrator **Carmen Davis** read the resolution, citing a backlog of cases plus overcrowding as serious issues. Financially, the county has seen an increase in medical costs for prisoners over the past two decades. The resolution also refers to an increase of prisoners who are HIV-positive. While more correctional facilities can help the overcrowding, that won't make up for the lack of proper medical and mental-health care, **Davis** said. Sen. David Blount of Hinds County told the JFP this morning the issue is definitely a concern, but it is too early for him to comment substantially. He has met with the county once about the collaborative concept and plans to look more into the subject before the next legislative session convenes in January.

Mississippi Rep. Credell Calhoun, D-District 68, who is Supervisor Calhoun's husband, said he had also attended a meeting on the idea. "I think it's appropriate. Hopefully, we can get something done," he said. "We are not just talking about Hinds County." Calhoun said he didn't know off hand how much money might be involved with developing the treatment collaborative, but he did say it would be significant. "It would be worth it," he said. Rep. Bill Denny, R-District 64, said he was too busy campaigning door-to-door, sun-up to sundown, to talk about the issue. "We are right in the middle of a campaign," he told the Jackson Free Press this morning. "I don't want to get in the middle of anything."

In a previous story, JFP reported that it is not easy for the mentally ill to get help immediately. Kathy Denton, public relations director at Mississippi State Hospital, said that residents must first go to a regional health facility before coming to the state hospital. In Hinds County, residents can seek treatment at Hinds Behavioral Health Services, and staff will then decide if the patient should seek long-term treatment at the state facility. It often takes a family member or friend to bring in someone they are concerned about and continue taking them to appointments.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press

July 27, 2011

**A Fair Policy?**

Author: Lacey McLaughlin

If you serve at the will and pleasure of an elected official in Hinds County or the state, you have signed on for a job without protection if you are fired. Rep. Ed Blackmon Jr., D-Madison, plans to introduce legislation next year that would require counties to choose a blanket personnel policy that would either give all county employees employment protections or none at all. Blackmon says the situation highlights a bigger issue in the state about employee rights in the private and public sectors. "People say Mississippi is a right-to-work state, but that's a misnomer because it's a right-to-be fired state," Blackmon said.

Mississippi is one of 22 states with right-to-work laws that prohibit agreements between employers and labor unions that require employees to join a union as a term of their employment. Blackmon argues that, historically, employers used the state's right-to-work statute to suppress the African American vote because employers could threaten to fire their black workers if they wanted to vote. Today, people who work for elected county officials may not have the same employment protections that other county public servants (such as public works, emergency services and the county attorney's office) have. State law gives county elected officials the authority to set their own personnel policies.

"This is now being used by the very people that the law was intended to intimidate," Blackmon said. "Right-to-work is a holy grail in Mississippi, and we are happy to tell prospective employers that you don't have to worry about unions or employee rights. You can fire anybody in Mississippi that works for you for any reason or no reason at all."

Speaking at a Hinds County Board of Supervisors meeting June 6, Jacquie Amos-Norris asked supervisors to consider changing the county's policy. In May, Hinds County Tax Collector Eddie Fair fired Norris. She doesn't think she should have been fired. Fair fired Amos-Norris May 13, citing her unwillingness to cross train. Norris, however, claims that Fair fired her after she disagreed with him about her pay. "Employees don't have rights," Amos-Norris said. "The only thing you are allowed to do is show up for work."

Fair denies the allegation that he fired Amos-Norris as an act of retaliation, but said he could not comment on a personnel issue. Fair maintains that he has merely adopted a personnel policy similar to his predecessors and believes that he is being unjustly singled out. "I think it's a fair policy," he said. "If you have the right to hire, why shouldn't you have the right to fire?" Fair's policy, like the majority of county elected officials, does not have a grievance and appeals process, and employees serve at the will and pleasure of the tax collector. County employees who work in departments not headed by an elected official can appeal to the county's human-resources department if they are fired or have workplace grievances. They then make their case to a human-resources committee, which makes a report to County Administrator **Carmen Davis**

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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on whether the employee was wrongfully terminated. **Davis** then has final authority on the person's employment status. Amos-Norris claims that Fair has too much authority and says his personnel policy creates a hostile environment and high employee turnover. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors adopted Fair's personnel policy in 2004. **Davis** said the board has no authority over Fair's policy or over that of any elected official. "It's required by state law that they place it in with minutes of the board," **Davis** said. "It's not an approval action; it's a receiving action." Hinds County Circuit Clerk Barbara Dunn and Hinds County Chancery Clerk Eddie Jean Carr can also terminate employees without a grievance or appeals process. Carr, who spent two years working as a human-resources manager, said that she has not fired anyone during her eight-year term in office. "I have an open-door policy with my staff," she said. "We don't have any issues or problems."

The Hinds County Sheriff's office does have an appeals process, but Sheriff Malcolm McMillin makes the final decision regarding employment. Brenda Scott, president of the Mississippi Alliance of State Employees, said that state employees serve at the will and pleasure of elected officials and did not think that county employees should be any different. "That's a non-protected job title," Scott said. "... If I was the head of a new administration and there were a bunch of employees from that old administration, I should have authority to put my people in place. Otherwise, there is no loyalty to me, and I can't succeed."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press

June 8, 2011

**Did County Know of Abuse at Detention Center?**

Author: Lacey McLaughlin

The proposed set of rules would include a bond schedule for suspects charged with crimes and outline arrest procedures. Juvenile-justice advocates filed a lawsuit last week that raises questions about how much the Hinds County Board of Supervisors knew about alleged abuses at the county's Henley-Young Detention Center. The Mississippi Youth Justice Project, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, filed a lawsuit last week claiming that youth detained in the detention center suffer various abuses and live in unsanitary and unsafe conditions. The advocacy organization says detention-center officials regularly isolate children in cells for 20 to 23 hours a day, deny them educational and counseling services, and verbally abuse the detainees.

The lawsuit states that Henley-Young staff routinely curse at detainees and issue threats of physical violence. Officers have even threatened to kill detainees, the lawsuit claims. One specific incident in the suit describes what happened when a 17-year-old, referred to as D.I., began cutting himself with a razor. "Instead of providing D.I. with the required care, Henley-Young staff taunted the youth and commented that if he succeeded in killing himself, there would be one less person officers would have to worry about," the lawsuit states.

Mississippi Youth Justice Project staff attorney Corrie Cockrell said her organization filed the lawsuit after attempts to work with the county on reforming the detention center's conditions failed. In 2009, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors approved a memorandum of understanding with the MYJP, which called for a series of detention-center reforms. The memorandum resulted in officers discontinuing the use of a restraining chair. But other requests, such as limiting the amount of time detainees are confined to their cells and ensuring that detainees receive educational and medical services, have not been resolved, Cockrell said.

"We were regularly meeting until a year ago to bring this to their attention, and progress was going well," Cockrell said. "... Then things became a standstill, and there was no movement in the right direction. From that point forward, we have been reaching out to the county, but felt like we had to bring the lawsuit forward because we have not been able to make any progress for a year now. " Some supervisors and County Administrator **Carmen Davis** claim that they were unaware of the specific allegations named in the lawsuit. Hinds County Supervisor Peggy Calhoun, who raised questions about the facility's staff and transparency in 2009, said she had not been notified of the allegations of abuse since the board passed the memorandum in 2009. She said that the weekly reports the MYJP provided to county officials contained mostly positive information about the detention center.

"I don't think the lawsuit is necessary to change any alleged conditions of prolonged isolation, verbal abuse and threats of physical harm, because if these matters come before board we will address the situation," Calhoun told the Jackson Free Press. "... I certainly would not tolerate or

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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allow any of the young people to be subjected to adverse conditions. "Regrettably, the Southern Poverty Law Center has not communicated to <sup>[[ ]]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> me any of their concerns, nor has staff communicated to me any concerns. When I heard about the lawsuit, I was appalled by all the allegations."

**Davis**, who is conducting an informal investigation into the allegations, said she receives reports from the MYJP each week and reviews and distributes them to supervisors. She said that the extent of allegations mentioned in the lawsuit did not appear in the reports she has received. "The weekly reports were reviewed by myself and (Dale Knight), the director of Henley Young," **Davis** said. "We reviewed the issues that they raised in the weekly reports as best as we could because they were brought to us in a general manner."

Knight, who has served in his position since August 2010, denied the accusations. "I am confident that we have done all that we can for our detainees," he said. Cockrell, however, claims that the reports addressed the lawsuit's allegations, and her organization made several attempts to bring the allegations to officials' attention. In addition to ensuring that youth are treated properly, she said, MYJP wants the county to consider other juvenile reform programs. "There are several alternatives to detention centers," she said. "Community-based programs could be for children who pose little threat to society, and children who do not require secured detention. These are programs that are proven to reduce juvenile-crime rates." The Jackson Free Press has submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to Hinds County for MYJP's weekly reports.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press

February 2, 2011

**Caring for Criminals**

Author: Ward Schaefer

Inmate medical care is an unpopular business, at least in Hinds County. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors learned that lesson the hard way in January, when it found itself scrambling for a medical provider before its existing contract, with Jackson-based Reddix Medical Group, expired Jan. 31. Reddix informed the county Nov. 4 that it would not seek a renewal of its \$213,800 contract to provide medical care for inmates at the county detention center. By Jan. 25, when supervisors met to pick a new provider, County Administrator **Carmen Davis** had only found two other companies willing to submit proposals for the contract.

Supervisors postponed a vote on the contract, though. On Monday, Jan. 31, the board discovered at a special meeting that both proposals had fallen through. As Dan Gibson, the county's facilitator for its inmate medical costs, explained, prison work is not particularly desirable for most doctors. "It's hard to find doctors to work in a prison, and if they do, they're going to price it well above market (rates)," Gibson said.

An earlier proposal from Inmate Medical Care Services, which **Davis** had recommended, collapsed after the company's participating doctors dropped out. Insurance company owner Matt Thomas, who had presented the offer, told the Jackson Free Press that his group submitted its offer to the county around Jan. 14. By the time the county met on Jan. 25 and postponed its decision, too many doctors had found other jobs, Thomas said. Thomas said that Inmate Medical Care Services had no previous experience working with prisons, though individual doctors had worked with inmates before. The Jackson Medical Mall would have acted as the actual service provider for the group, he said.

Dr. David Williams, who submitted the second offer, rescinded his proposal without giving a reason, Gibson told supervisors. In place of the two older proposals, **Davis** presented a new, costlier offer from Reddix. For \$330,000, Reddix would offer a wider variety of services, including on-call access to a physician around the clock. **Davis** said that she was able to negotiate Reddix's original proposed cost down from \$363,000 to \$330,000 annually. Still, the new Reddix contract would cost the county \$116,200 more than its original \$213,800 contract.

The increased cost reflects an increase in services, with Reddix proposing to offer an on-call physician around the clock, increase the availability of a gynecologist and provide psychological care not included in the county's current agreement. Faced with the prospect of a gap in health care for prisoners, the board appeared bound to one choice. Sheriff Malcolm McMillin said that he needed more time to review Reddix's new offer, having not seen it before the meeting. "In this particular situation, I feel I've been backed up into a corner," McMillin said. "We didn't have this proposal when we had the other two." "Remember that budget you're talking about is yours, because the Sheriff's Department doesn't have any money for more (registered nurses),"



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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McMillin added. "I think this is an awfully big proposal here. It may be a good idea, but I'm certainly not going to agree to it without studying it." After a recess, the board voted to approve the Reddix contract. **Davis** asked Reddix to offer its recommendation for minimum medical staffing levels necessary at the jail. Reddix responded with a plan that would require the county to hire three new nurses but also cut six of the 11 medical officers on staff, and replace two bachelor's-level social workers with one master's-level social worker.

Neither she nor Reddix were officially recommending the staff reduction, **Davis** stressed to supervisors. The board voted to accept the company's suggestions for nurse positions and add one additional nursing position and create two more through attrition, when other medical officer positions become vacant. County Budget Director Lillie Woods said adding the nurses without also reducing the number of medical officers would cost the county an additional \$153,544 this year. Following Reddix's entire staffing recommendation, including cuts, would save the county \$89,554, making the total cost increase of the new agreement \$26,646.

Gibson, the county's facilitator for inmate medical costs, said the added staff and services could end up saving the county in the long term. Additional nurses would improve the detention center's initial health screenings of inmates, Gibson said. The new agreement also includes psychiatric services that the county previously contracted for separately. With greater control over psychiatric services, the county could also save money through closer regulation of psychiatric medicines.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Jackson Free Press  
September 7, 2010

**Hinds Hires New Administrator; Debates Voting Machines**

Author: Ward Schaefer

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors voted today to hire **Carmen Davis** as its new county administrator. **Davis** replaces interim Administrator Ray Bryant, who had held the position since March. A native of Detroit, Mich., **Davis** received a bachelor's degree in urban planning and a master's degree in business administration from Wayne State University. For 10 years, she worked as a city planner for the Detroit City Planning Commission. In addition to managing development projects, she assisted in reviews of departmental budgets and monitored grants. **Davis** moved to Hinds County from Detroit, Mich., a year ago. Her husband, Al, is a math teacher in Jackson Public Schools.

The board set **Davis'** salary at \$82,500 a year. **Davis** is the county's third administrator in less than a year. Bryant took over in March after the board voted 3-2 during an executive session to fire Vern Gavin. Gavin himself had only held the position for roughly one year. "Hopefully, you can bring some longevity to the position," Supervisor Peggy Calhoun told **Davis** after the board voted 4-0 to hire her, effective immediately. "I hope so, too," **Davis** replied.

Supervisors also spent over half an hour discussing a request from the county Election Commission to purchase 300 used voting machines. Election Commissioners Lelia Rhodes and Marilyn Avery urged the board to approve buying the two-year-old machines, at a cost of \$350 per machine. New voting machines can cost \$3,000 each, Rhodes said. The machines would arrive by Dec. 1, after the November congressional elections but in time to be used for the 2011 statewide elections, she added. The purchase would come out of the \$1.722 million remaining in a federal grant for election equipment. Supervisors approved the purchase of scanners for the Election Commission earlier this summer. When Calhoun asked how the Election Commission planned to spend the remaining grant funds, Rhodes said that she needed more time. "I can't come before you abstractly," Rhodes said. "I like to do my research and come back to you with an idea of how we can effectively spend the money." Election Commissioner Jermal Clark spoke against the purchase, arguing that the machines were a model most states did not use, and that state-purchasing guidelines may require the county to submit a request for bids, which it has not done. "I don't know whether or not we're in compliance with bid laws," Clark said.

Purchasing Clerk Shirley Partee said that she also did not know immediately what state requirements applied to the elections equipment purchase. Supervisors agreed to delay voting on the purchase until they could determine whether a request for bids was necessary. The board went into executive session around 11 a.m. to discuss litigation concerning M3A Architects' work on a now-scrapped regional jail project in Raymond. Also on the agenda for executive session was discussion of bond funds for the Byram-Clinton Corridor project and the possible sale of the Mississippi Valley Title Building in downtown Jackson.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Carmen Y. Davis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Detroit News  
August 20, 1999

**Site plan for Kmart stirs water worries**

Author: Madison J. Gray

Residents of Detroit's far northwest corner fear that a potential retail development on the site of the Bonnie Brook Golf Course could upset the area's environmental balance. No agreement has been made on the development, but two meetings with community leaders have been held to show site plans for a new Super Kmart on the property, shrinking the golf course to nine holes from 18 holes. "What you're going to do is a displacement of water," said Tony Maclin, whose home is only a few hundred feet from the waterway. "It costs the residents because they are going to offset what was naturally here."

The site plan, Maclin said, called for the removal of trees and other vegetation, the moving of earth and construction on the river. He said upsetting the Rouge River's ecosystem would cause problems such as flooding in areas north and south of the golf course, higher heating and energy bills because of the removal of the natural canopy provided by trees and shrubbery, and accelerated soil erosion because of the redirection of water.

Marilyn Southern, president of the Berg-Lahser Community Association, said a change in the topography could mean a change in living conditions in the area. "This area has never been developed. The only thing we've ever had over there was Edgewater Park," she said. "My question is: What is the city of Detroit doing to ensure that environmental laws are not being overlooked -- or are they relying on community groups to discover this?"

Bonnie Brook Country Club officials did not respond to phone calls from The Detroit News, but Kmart spokesman Steve Pagnani said the company is "very interested" in the site. He said a decision to build there would depend on the Detroit City Council's approval. The community's concerns were heard, Pagnani said. "We wouldn't want to do anything to upset the current terrain there," he said. "We have to make sure that it is stable in the flood plain with the redesign of the golf course. Everything has to be done so that it works well with the course and the store."

But Detroit Planning Commission officials say that before work can begin, the plan must go through at least two tiers of approval. "The plan is before the city Planning Commission right now," said city Planner **Carmen Davis**. "There must also be public hearings scheduled before the City Council." The council would have to rezone the area for commercial development. It is now zoned for one- and two-family homes. In addition, the city's master plan would have to be changed to allow the "excess commercial frontage" that is prohibited now.

No date has been set for public hearings before City Council, nor have any proposals been made to amend the master plan, **Davis** said. Sandy Kanakis, president of Northwest Detroit Community Organization, said she wants to be sure that Kmart Corp., Bonnie Brook Golf Course officials, and community residents are all on the same page when a decision is made.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Carmen Y. Davis**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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"We need to get everyone in the same room on this because this is not Seven Mile and Meyers," she said. "This is a high-flood area. It has always been a golf course. If we have all this construction, it will be a huge impact on the area."

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