

January 16, 2005

Dear Friends & UFT members,

I chose to commemorate the Martin Luther King's Jr. Holiday with an act of social awareness and personal integrity.

<http://www.natwilliams.com>

natwilliams.com provides outreach to the Education Community. Documents associated with my experiences as a dedicated New York City public school teacher and union activist at John F. Kennedy High School over the past few years are available here; so that the full record may be presented. I will continue to develop this site. Currently, it contains photos, education resources and information.

Here's what's happening:

January 12, 2006. Ms. Williams met with JFK Administrators regarding a Step 1 grievance filed under Article 8D - Teachers judgment was not respected with respect to grading. [Cooperating teacher, Mr. K. Kent refused input from Ms. Williams on student grades. JFK administrators refused to add Ms. Williams' name to attendance and grade bubbles for classes that she was assigned to cooperatively teach.] The School will likely deny this 'Step 1'. Ms. W. Shama 'will make her determination' shortly. Ms. Williams will request that the UFT press the issue and demand a Step 3 hearing with the Chancellor's Office.

Ms. Williams was also given 5 more 'letters to file'. (You may read all of them through the 'JFK/DOE letters' link at natwilliams.com). These letters accuse her of 'illegally videotaping the classroom' and defying Ms. Pollina's directives with respect to contacting students. There are also some vague accusations of misconduct. All of these accusatory letters will likely be used in an attempt to support JFK HS Principal, Anthony Rotunno's claim of 'insubordination'. (All of Mr. Rotunno's file letters to Ms. Williams close with the statement - 'which may lead to an unsatisfactory observation and / or termination'). Ms. Williams will provide a response for each letter, which is to be included in her employment file.

January 17, 2006. Meeting scheduled with Ms. K. Pollina, local instructional supervisor; regarding Ms. Williams' "failure to comply with her directives".

January 24, 2006. Bronx Criminal Court. Ms. Williams' response to trespassing charges will be 'not guilty'. The case will therefore; go to trial.

I still have not received any official 'charges' from the Department of Education. Since October 26, 2005, I have been re-assigned to spend my days sitting in 'the rubber room'.

I have used these three months productively. (More on that later...). I believe that it is indeed a shame to deny the children the audience of their teachers. There are about 80 teachers now assigned to the Bronx rubber room alone.

I filed harassment complaint against Mr. Rotunno with the Police department. I also filed an incident report with the school and with the UFT.

I still have property in the school. I have requested to retrieve the items from the appropriate JFK and DOE personal. (Although I would like to get my stuff back; I wouldn't want to be accused of 'trespassing' again...).

I'm working on an autobiographical story entitled "How I got arrested". It will detail the circumstances surrounding my illegal arrest 'for trespassing' at John F. Kennedy High School and a description of my experiences in the Bronx County jail. My story will be available shortly; it is to be published in a magazine; I will also make it available to all as a pdf file.

Stay strong JFK UFT. Maintain solidarity and communication. (I hear that somebody's been taking away the kids' t-shirts... Well, maybe it's time for them to make some more).

I encourage you all to remember MLK Jr. with an act of awareness. This is mine.

Sincerely,

Ms. Natalie Williams

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<http://www.natwilliams.com>