



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY G. BROWN
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
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COLONEL
MARCUS L. BROWN
SUPERINTENDENT

September 29, 2014

Dear Mr. Turner, Ms. Hoggle and family:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Martin O'Malley today that asked him to direct the Maryland State Police to issue an Amber Alert for your missing children, Sarah and Jacob. Governor O'Malley received your letter and requested that I respond on his behalf.

It is impossible for me or anyone else who has not experienced what you are going through to know the full depth of the grief and pain you feel. Please know that I and all of the Maryland law enforcement officers familiar with this search for your missing children sympathize with you. Our thoughts and prayers remain with you during this incredibly difficult time for you and your family members.

More importantly, diligent and tireless efforts continue by the members of the Montgomery County Police Department and all those local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the region who are assisting in the search for Sarah and Jacob. Although it may not seem like it to you, there are scores of dedicated police officers and detectives who care deeply about finding your children and are committed to doing all they can to do so.

Information about Sarah and Jacob has been communicated to law enforcement agencies across the country. Their information was entered into the National Crime Information Center database immediately by the Montgomery County Police Department. Their photos and information about their disappearance was quickly distributed to media and to the public. I am certain Montgomery County Police detectives have kept you informed on many other details regarding what has been and continues to be done to find Sarah and Jacob.

"Maryland's Finest"

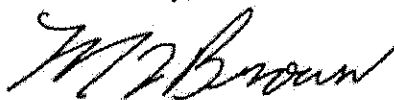
Unfortunately, not every tool is applicable or works in every situation. Such is the case of the Amber Alert. The key to the Amber Alert program being successful is that it is only implemented when specific criteria are met related to a child abduction and it is issued as soon after the confirmed abduction occurs as possible. It is meant to be a rapid notification system with specific information about a suspect and suspect vehicle involved in the abduction of children, in close proximity to the time the abduction occurred.

There was not a confirmed abduction of Sarah and Jacob. There was no suspect vehicle information known that could be provided to the public on highway signs used in an Amber Alert. The criteria required for an Amber Alert is rarely met, which maintains that program as an effective tool in finding children who have been abducted and are in immediate danger from an individual whose description is known and whose vehicle information can be quickly provided to the public.

The lack of an Amber Alert does not mean police and media are not publicizing information about the missing children. In addition to all the efforts generated by the Montgomery County Police through the media and social media, the Maryland State Police Maryland Center for Missing Children immediately produced flyers with photos and distributed them to all regional law enforcement, the National Center for Missing Children, and to the public via social media. News media outlets quickly covered the search for Sarah and Jacob and had photographs of the children.

The Maryland State Police and allied law enforcement will continue to support the Montgomery County Police Department in the ongoing search for Sarah and Jacob. I hope you find comfort in knowing there are many dedicated police officers working around the clock to find your children.

Sincerely,



Marcus L. Brown
Superintendent

MLB:GMS