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# On the Lookout for the New Jails Chief

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*Devon Brown* will be the next District jails chief. Definitely maybe!

Brown has accepted the job as director of the D.C. Department of Corrections. He was confirmed by the D.C. Council on Dec. 20 and is expected to begin work in the next week or two.

But some are questioning whether he will show up.

Brown has not handed in his official resignation as director of the New Jersey prison system, leading to speculation in the New Jersey media that he wants to stay to work for incoming governor *Jon S. Corzine* (D), who takes office next month. Last week Brown released a statement that fueled this speculation, saying his "preference" would be to stay in the Garden State.

The strange doings in New Jersey are concerning Brown's supporters in the District.

*Douglas R. Sparks*, an attorney who has represented many prisoners, said he would be "extraordinarily alarmed" if Brown turned down the District job. "It would be a nightmare if he didn't come."

On Friday, Brown tried to tamp down the tempest, telling a Washington Post editorial writer that "it looks like I'm heading to Washington."

And that was still the official word from a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Corrections on Tuesday. "It's looking like he's going to Washington, but we haven't gotten a definitive word at this point," said *Matt Schuman*.

Council member *Phil Mendelson* (D-At Large), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, called the situation "a little bit of a mystery" but said that he hoped Brown will come. Brown testified before Mendelson's committee -- without notes -- during his confirmation hearing Nov. 29.

Brown has been the corrections commissioner in New Jersey since 2002 and held a similar post in Montgomery County from 1993 to 1998. Brown served as interim head of the District's system from November 1998 until March 1999.

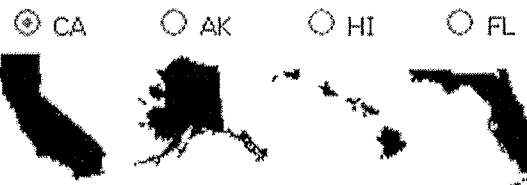
The skinny on Brown is that he is impressive and accomplished -- and that he will be the first to tell you so.

Mayoral spokesman *Vince Morris* says the whole "Will Devon Come?" game has gotten out of hand.

"Obviously he is coming," Morris said. "I actually think the whole thing got blown out of proportion."

Yes, it's absolutely possible!

Q: Which state has the longest coastline?



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