



A Safer Philadelphia Block By Block: Dwight Evans' Crime Strategy

The Number One job of government is to provide for the safety of its citizens, and city government in Philadelphia is failing at that task.

Crime is the most important issue facing Philadelphia today.

We need **real leadership** from someone with a **real record** on public safety. I offer both.

The Problem: Out-of-Control Crime

More than 380 homicides. Over 1,800 shooting victims this year.

Murder and violent crime in Philadelphia are out of control. Philadelphia already has surpassed last year's numbers for murders as well as shootings, and we still have two weeks left in 2006.

And *last year* was terrible itself: Philadelphia suffered one of the worst increases in homicides among major cities in 2005, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Among the nation's largest cities, only Houston saw a bigger increase, while many other cities – such as New York – saw decreases. In other cities with more than one million residents, violent crime – murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault – was down slightly in 2005. But not in Philadelphia: Violent crime rose 3.36 percent.

Philadelphia was fortunate to see general reductions in the number of murders and levels of violence in the 1990s. But the sad reality is that violence and mayhem have been increasing for several years now: Murders increased 32 percent just between 2002 and 2005, while total violent crimes increased more than 4 percent during the same period. And the violence continues to get worse.

The City's response hasn't worked. Gun arrests and confiscations have increased, as have drug seizures and arrests. Truancy and other juvenile arrests are up. In an effort to increase community participation, the city has trained hundreds of new block captains and town watch members. The Police Department has tried to crackdown on "hot spots" identified as having high concentrations of violence and fugitives.

But it is not enough. We're missing one key ingredient.

We need a mayor who will make fighting crime his top priority – who has shown *before* taking office that he understands the problem, cares about tackling it, and will take these tough steps to do it.

The Solution: A Tough Plan Based on Proven Experience

We need four basic elements to make our community safe. Just as a table becomes unstable if any of its legs is weak, our City is less stable and less safe if all four elements are not present:

- 1. Better Law Enforcement.** To enforce laws effectively, police must be visible, trained, well-managed, and reflect the values of the communities they serve. They must be engaged in community policing. They must be properly targeted on the central problem: guns, as well as on the worst offenders.
- 2. An Effective Justice System.** Courts must deliver justice with speedy trials and just punishment, and not serve simply as a revolving door for criminals to return to the streets. They also must properly supervise offenders on probation and parole to ensure that they remain crime-free.
- 3. Quality Education.** We must have safe schools that teach community values and create economic opportunities.
- 4. Community Partnerships and Involvement.** The criminal justice system by itself cannot do it all. Community mores and value systems are necessary to enforce social behavior. Community-based organizations help channel anger and frustration into positive action and help parents teach young people right from wrong.

As mayor, I will make fighting crime my top priority, and that will start the moment I am sworn in. Philadelphia cannot move ahead economically and socially until we change the culture of violence and reduce crime substantially – and we cannot wait another minute to do so.

Making Philadelphia Safer From Day One

Philadelphia has waited for action through three long years of increasing violence. We cannot afford to wait any longer. We cannot afford to elect another politician who doesn't recognize the importance of the crime problem until an election year. We cannot afford to choose a mayoral candidate who *talks* about crime but hasn't *acted* on it. We cannot afford a mayor who has to learn the solutions on-the-job. And that Mayor cannot afford to wait one day after taking the oath of office to begin changing the culture of violence and reducing crime.

That is why I am running for mayor – and why I will focus every city agency and employee on restoring order and cracking down on crime and violence **from Day One**.

Here's what we can do – and what I *will* do -- beginning the very first day I take office:

1. Increase the Police Force by at Least 500 More Police Officers

We need more police. At a time when crime, violence, and disorder are skyrocketing, our police force is down from a peak of about 7,000 sworn officers a few years ago to about 6,500 officers today. At an appearance before City Council in March of 2006, Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson specifically requested 500 additional police officers over 5 years. We need more police on our streets, in and around our schools, conducting investigations, and engaging in innovative problem-solving policing, instead of simply overworking the officers we have, paying lots of overtime costs, and watching our crime rates skyrocket.

I believe Philadelphia needs to put an additional 500 police officers on the street. I will work with the City Council to find the funding to do so. And I will begin increasing the force from Day One.

This will not come cheap. It will cost up to \$60 to \$100 million to hire 500 officers. But this year alone, the current administration proposed dedicating an additional \$10 million just for extra overtime pay to dedicate more police officers to some of his crime-fighting initiatives. For the foreseeable future, we need more cops – not just more overtime.

We will pay for these new officers through a variety of strategies, including:

- Cutting administrative budgets (including the mayor's budget), waste, and inefficiencies.
- Tapping into the City's surplus revenue.
- Dedicating a portion of revenue from the City's two gaming licenses.
- Working with others in Harrisburg – as I have demonstrated I can do repeatedly – to obtain passage of proposed legislation providing state matching-funds and/or grants for hiring additional officers.

I offer more detailed ideas for achieving savings and funding our assault on crime later in this strategy. But the point is this: If we want to get serious about fighting crime, we must invest in officers, in training and in modernizing our police force. As mayor, I will make fighting crime and reducing it my number one priority – and that means putting funding crime prevention ahead of all other fiscal options, not just talking about it. As House Appropriations Chairman, I know that budget priorities are the *real* priorities – and I know how to make the tough trade-offs that make sure government’s priorities reflect people’s needs. If you’re not willing to do that, and able to say *how* you’ll do it, then you’re not willing and able to govern.

The minute I take the oath as Mayor, I will direct the Philadelphia Police Department to:

- **Move as many officers as possible from restricted duty back into patrol districts.** At the very least, this will enable able-bodied officers who are now performing desk duties to resume active patrol, as well as moving traffic enforcement officers into other patrol duties.
- **Move as many plainclothes officers as possible back to uniformed patrol to further increase police visibility.**
- **Identify all possible cutting-edge technologies that can be acquired and deployed as “force multipliers,”** enabling police to respond more effectively and quickly to crimes, reduce paperwork, and reduce time spent in court.
- **Integrate the Philadelphia Housing Authority Police Department, SEPTA Police, and all other police forces in the city into the Philadelphia Police Department’s Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System** and coordinate patrols and other law enforcement activities. This would effectively give the PPD the reach of thousands of additional officers in responding to reports and incidents of violence.

2. Attack Gun Crimes

Philadelphia is awash in guns. We have more shooting victims and gun seizures than New York City, which has nearly five times our population. To stop gun violence in our City, I will move immediately upon taking office to:

- **Require the police to trace and report any firearm recovered from a juvenile.** To stop youth from carrying and using guns, the police must investigate where juvenile criminals are getting guns illegally and crack down on those sources.

- **Require all criminals with gun records to register with the police.** Just as we require sex offenders to register with police and let people know their whereabouts, I will push for a citywide ordinance to require those who have committed crimes with guns to register with police so that the police can keep tabs on them and neighbors will know who is living in their area.
- **Pursue the right to control guns within Philadelphia.** If Pennsylvania state lawmakers are unwilling to tighten state gun laws, then at the very least, they ought to stop being an obstacle and enable Philadelphia to create its own gun control laws. I have proposed legislation to grant cities like Philadelphia an exemption from state law and allow it to regulate firearms. I will continue to demand that as Mayor.

3. Focus Extra Enforcement on Priority “Impact Zones”

Crime and violence disproportionately effect certain neighborhoods and districts. While Center City largely has been spared much of the crime and violence that plagues Philadelphia, about three-quarters of this year’s murders have occurred in northern and western portions of Philadelphia, particularly North Philadelphia, West and Southwest Philadelphia, and the lower Northeast.

My first day in office, I will direct the Police Department to establish prioritized “impact zones” – and **flood targeted zones with teams of law enforcement, probation, and parole officers.** As part of this effort, I will ensure that crime victim advocates and social workers provide support and resources to victims and those impacted by the shootings and other violence to help break the cycle of violence, prevent future violence, and set the stage for rebuilding lives and our communities.

4. Zero Tolerance for Assaults on Our Quality of Life

Criminals will seek to rule our streets, parks, and neighborhoods as long as they have a sense that they are feared and that disorder will be tolerated. Research shows that small neighborhood problems, from litter to abandoned vehicles to broken streetlamps or windows, can fester into bigger problems like open air drug markets and crack houses if left unabated.

The City of Philadelphia will use every resource at its disposal during my Administration to send a signal that lawlessness will not be tolerated in any form. Every City agency will be directed to bolster efforts to enforce quality of life ordinances and to act swiftly to resolve problems that citizens and neighborhood organizations have identified.

In short, **the moment I take office, Philadelphia will adopt a “zero-tolerance” policy for disorder.** We will focus more city resources on stopping seemingly minor infractions, such as vandalism, vagrancy, and code violations, which create an environment for more serious crimes. The New York City Police Department, for example, saw a 30 percent reduction in felonies in New York subways when more resources were directed at reducing intimidating behavior of panhandlers and homeless people in the subways. Monthly subway ejections went from 2,000 to 16,000.

These efforts will serve an additional public safety purpose. If police ticket individuals for public urination or violating open container ordinances, they can search them. This can lead to the confiscation of illegal drugs or guns and help prevent future crimes, and may be a way to identify persons who are wanted for a variety of other offenses.

5. Call an Immediate Special Session of the City Council to focus on crime reduction

Immediately upon taking the oath of office as your mayor, **I will call a special session of the City Council to consider and enact any and all measures to crack down on crime, violence, and disorder –including the long-term crime strategy I propose below.** We can have no more immediate priority.

During this special session, I will work with the Council to think creatively about what has worked, what has not worked, and what new ideas ought to be tried. As part of this special session, we will identify all possible sources of City, State, Federal, and private funding to support new or expanded programs. I firmly believe that every source of revenue, every pot of City money, must be on the table and considered as a possible funding source.

A Long-Term Anti-Crime Strategy

We must *start* changing the culture and ending the reign of violence from Day One – but the fight won’t *end* on Day One. This is a long fight that will require a long-term strategy and a Mayor in it for the long haul. That’s why, unlike any other mayoral candidate, I have worked during the last few years to develop both a long-term strategy and funding to support that strategy during the next decade.

During the last few years, I have worked successfully to persuade state leaders to provide funding to Philadelphia to create a long-term **Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia.** The Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia Initiative is a 10-year, community-based violence prevention initiative with the goal of eliminating *all* youth homicide in Philadelphia by the year 2016. I worked with numerous State and City leaders, experts, and community organizations to create the Blueprint by securing more than \$40 million in state funding. Key components of the Blueprint include:

- A social marketing campaign to show youth that there are alternatives to violence and options for a brighter future.
- A data collection and analysis center that helps neighborhoods pinpoint problems and organize violence prevention efforts.
- A diverse body of experts in the fields of public health, research, youth violence programs, education, substance abuse and delinquency prevention, who will serve as a “think tank” to develop new solutions to the problem of violence.

The Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia Campaign consists of more than 400 community partners citywide who have pledged their support. Community partners receive information and updates about various Blueprint events, meetings, and activities. They include community-based organizations, schools, churches, recreation centers, clinics and more. One Blueprint partner, Community Healthcare Counseling, Education and Advocacy (CHOICE), serves as "command central" for Blueprint information, services, and community participants. Its counselors maintain a detailed database of services provided by Blueprint organizations. When individuals call to offer time and skills, or to seek services, CHOICE staff connect them with the right agencies as volunteers or as clients.

You can learn more about this citywide, community-based violence prevention effort by calling 1-888-577-BLUE (2583), or by visiting the initiative’s website at www.phillyblueprint.com.

All of this means that, **the day I take the oath of office, Philadelphia will have Mayor who already knows what to do about crime in the long-term – and has been working over the long-term to make it a reality.** Beyond working to implement fully the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia, my long-term public safety agenda will include tackling the following issues – the legs of the four-legged table I talked about earlier:

1. Demanding Better Law Enforcement to Stop Crime and Violence

Philadelphia needs not only more law enforcement, but smarter law enforcement. As mayor, I will work with the police department and city agencies to:

- **Invest in a 21st Century police force.** The City Controller recently issued a report that identified serious problems in the maintenance and repair of aging police facilities and recommended that the City invest significant funding simply to make police facilities safe, let alone adequate. As mayor, I will make investments not only in police facilities but also in crime fighting technology, equipment, and training to bring the City’s police force and crime-fighting capabilities into the 21st Century. We will seek to make

new, modern police/fire/community centers anchors of stability and revitalization in neighborhoods rather than the symbol of disinvestment some police stations currently serve as.

- **Improve community and police relations and collaboration.** As Mayor, I will work to enhance community and law enforcement partnerships to reduce crime and violence and help build trust, including:
 - **Helping Philadelphia police officers establish residency in the communities in which they serve** through incentives such as grants for low-interest homeownership loans, and a program to help guide officers through the home-buying process. This effort will mean not only more cops on a street but means more cops *living* on a street – providing a visible police presence in the neighborhood to help drive crime rates down.
 - **Conducting yearly community surveys and evaluations of police performance and response**, as well as the response of all City agencies. I want to hear from the community the ways in which City government can improve its performance, and want some measures of accountability that demonstrate progress by City agencies and employees.
 - **Raising recruiting standards for all new police officers** in an effort to make the Philadelphia Police Department more professional. Improved recruiting standards for new hires would include requiring that recruits undergo more thorough background checks that include in-depth inquiries about their past behavior, their reputation for honesty and integrity, their current and past associations, and their financial and marital stability, as well as evidence of illegal drug or alcohol use. I will balance these higher standards with increases starting salaries for new recruits in order to further raise the caliber of officers.
 - **Establishing a minimum two-year college degree requirement for all new Philadelphia Police Department officers** as a prerequisite needed to attain tenure on the police force. Existing officers would be exempt from this requirement.
 - **Using pay incentives to attract police recruits from the military.** In addition to providing a stable career path for soldiers rotating out of the service, military personnel already have excellent training in a variety of important activities that are consistent with the mission of the Philadelphia Police Department.

- **Continue to make gun control a priority.** As mayor, I will do everything in my power to highlight the impact of gun violence on our city. To remind everyone of the damage inflicted on Philadelphia and its citizens by gun violence, I will undertake at least one gun control initiative a week – from gun buybacks to violence awareness programs in schools to community forums to street sweeps. I will do whatever it takes to crackdown on gun violence and return the streets of Philadelphia to its law-abiding citizens, including:
 - Partnering with the United States Attorney’s Office, the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office, the FBI, the Police Department, and committed community organizations to institute Operation Ceasefire. **We will use intensive gun tracing, data collection, and direct outreach to let gang members know that violent behavior will trigger an immediate, intense response from the criminal justice system, including the use of federal gun laws to get gun criminals off the street.**
 - **Making the Philadelphia Gun Court work more efficiently** by providing additional city funding to increase its capacity and seeking tougher mandatory sentences for gun crimes, especially mandatory jail terms for gun violations.
 - **Installing surveillance cameras and gunshot location technologies in high crime neighborhoods** upon the request of that community to identify and reduce gun crimes. Gunshot location technologies rely on noise sensors and surveillance cameras to detect gunshots within seconds of being fired, and then quickly guide police to the location.
 - **Creating gun-free safety zones around schools, libraries, and daycare centers.** Violators found to be carrying guns within these zones will be subject to enhanced jail sentences.
- **Focus on getting repeat offenders off the street by enforcing arrest warrants and apprehending outstanding criminals.** Those who are wanted for arrest should not be allowed to walk our streets and harm our citizens. We will devote extra police resources to ensure that all those who are wanted by the law will be captured.
- **Use stay-away orders to prohibit drug dealers and certain violent offenders from returning to the neighborhood where they have committed crimes.** This should be done as a mandatory condition of probation. In addition, the City will widely publicize this enhanced

punishment in an effort to try to deter some from violent criminal behavior that may lead to this form of banishment.

- **Establish a joint fire-police arson squad.** Arson now tops the list as a cause of all fatal fires in the city. Reportedly, more people die in fires in Philadelphia, per capita, than almost any other large city in the country. The city should develop a joint fire-police arson squad responsible for devising training specifically for fire and police investigations of arson and set-up a fire and arson information system to track information on perpetrators, such as age, gender, place of residence, motive, and other information, geo-mapping of the locations of fires, and information on how the fire was set to improve arson investigations and to help prevent arson crimes from occurring.

2. **Demanding a Better Justice System**

In addition to demanding better response to crime by our police force, our criminal justice system must deliver better public safety results as well. Our courts must deliver justice by providing speedy trials and fair punishments, not just serving as a revolving door for criminals to return to crime. They also must properly supervise offenders on probation or parole to ensure that they remain crime-free. To bolster the justice system's efforts to protect the public, as mayor, I will:

- **Protect Witnesses and Reduce Witness Intimidation.** Our police and prosecutors will never make significant headway against violent career criminals unless witnesses step forward and help them make these cases. But right now, a street code of "don't snitch" and rising incidences of witness intimidation are combining to frustrate justice and ensure that violent criminals remain free to hurt others and spread fear and destruction throughout our neighborhoods. Nearly half of last year's 380 murders remain unsolved, in large part due to these trends.

In an effort to reverse these trends, District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham and others have called upon the City Council to establish a \$1 million witness-protection fund. Such a fund will help provide better protection services, ensure the safety of witnesses and their families, and help make the criminal justice system operate more effectively and put violent criminals behind bars. In the past, the City has waited around, hoping that the State or Federal government will come to its rescue and fund such critical services. Under my leadership, Philadelphia will find a way to fund this effort itself if necessary. In addition, I will propose ordinances and encourage state legislators and the Governor to enact measures to strengthen victim and witness protection laws, including ordering and enforcing orders for defendants to stay away from victims and witnesses, and harshly punishing those who intimidate witnesses.

- **Increase jail space and probation and parole staff so we can take offenders off our streets.** We cannot jail our way out of crime and violence, but we certainly can do a better job of stopping it by identifying and arresting violent criminals, not allowing them to return unsupervised to the streets in a perverse “catch and release” program due to a lack of jail space or a shortage of probation and parole officers.

In Philadelphia, the daily population of the Philadelphia Prison System has grown in recent years, doubling from about 4,000 in the late 1980’s to around 8,000 or more today. The total number of annual admissions into the system also has increased, from 23,000 in 1996 to 31,000 in 2003. Stop-gap measures, such as triple bunking inmates, are insufficient and only likely to trigger adverse judgments against the City, not to mention all-but-encourage the release of offenders who ought to remain in custody.

I will work with the prison system and the City Council to identify all feasible options to fund an expansion of jail capacity. In addition, I will work with the state and enter into a Memoranda of Understanding and other cooperative agreements to share state resources in an effort to expand the City’s incarceration and probation and parole options.

- **Implement a system of coerced abstinence within the Philadelphia probation and parole system to reduce offender drug use.** New probationers with drug histories will be subject to twice-weekly drug tests; positive drug tests will result in immediate incarceration and increasing periods of incarceration for each subsequent positive test result.

3. Creating Safe Schools that Provide a High-Quality Education

It is easy for some people to look at Philadelphia’s rising murder rate and see it as a problem of young black criminals killing other young black men. But if we are going to change the culture of violence that is overwhelming parts of our city, we must never give in to that cynicism.

To change that culture of violence, we must invest in our schools and our youth. We must make our schools havens for learning, opportunity, and community values. But first and foremost, they must be safe, or else the education process will never be able to flourish. To address juvenile violence and to make our schools safer, as mayor, I will:

- **Find the weak links in every school’s security efforts – and fix them.** One of the greatest challenges facing our City is the reality that some of our schools are not safe havens for learning. The number of serious or violent incidents in most schools is down over the past four years, but we

still have room for improvement. Bullying and violence against students inhibits learning, causes truancy, and otherwise interferes with the educational mission of our schools and the future well-being and success of our young people. ***As mayor, I will initiate a comprehensive and annual assessment of how safe our schools are.*** It will not be enough to identify what the problems are. I will work with the City Council to provide sufficient resources to fix problems that are discovered, not just play the blame game. In some instances, this may require technologies such as metal detectors, door locks and alarms, and communications systems to be installed. In other instances, it may require the funding and hiring of counselors, training and education programs, and skills-building curricula to avoid drug use, gangs, or violence as we currently support under the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia.

- **Assign police to public high schools.** We will station Philadelphia police officers as school safety resources in every high school that requests one. These officers will make our schools safer and in doing so, will enable schools to get on with the mission of educating our youth.
- **Increase school-based conflict resolution strategies by incorporating peer mediation programs and Peaceable Schools approaches into the Philadelphia public school system.** The Peaceable Schools approach seeks to create schools where conflict resolution has been adopted by every member of the school community, from the crossing guard to the classroom teacher. A Peaceable School promotes a climate that challenges youth and adults to believe and act on the understanding that a diverse, nonviolent society is a realistic goal. An evaluation of Peaceable Schools programs used in four multi-ethnic school districts in New York City found a 71 percent decrease in physical violence in the classroom and observed 66 percent less name calling and fewer verbal insults. If there is any doubt that conflict resolution skills are badly needed in Philadelphia, one need look no further than our climbing murder rate. According to the Police Executive Research Forum, 212 of last year's 380 murders began as an argument that clearly escalated far out of control.
- **Contact parents regarding every student absence to reduce truancy.** We will require that all parents be notified by phone (and/or text message on their cell phone) that their child did not report to school, and ask parents to verify that their child's absence is legitimate. We will use a consortium of parent, community-based, and faith-based organizations (i.e., GPUAC, Parent Assistant Desks, and Home and School Associations) to make these calls and work to get kids back in school.

- **Change the Philadelphia Public School truancy policy to keep student in school, rather than kick them out of school.** Punishment for truancy currently should be restricted to in-school suspensions where students can receive academic support and remain in the school environment rather than be sent home. Research suggests that extremely punitive policies such as detentions and suspensions do not have a positive impact on attendance, particularly with disadvantaged students and students of color. Our goal should be to do everything possible to keep kids in school, not find ways to kick them out of school.
- **Use In-School Truancy Courts as an alternative to the formal court process.** This approach uses a magistrate and court aid to hold sessions with children and their parent/guardian to determine appropriate punishment. Youth who complete all requirements made by the court and continue to stay in school could avoid having a juvenile record.

4. Involving the Community in Solutions to End Violence

Our police, prosecutors, courts, corrections, and probation and parole systems cannot end violence and crime alone. All of us – parents, neighbors, community organizations, businesses, and City agencies – can work together to create opportunities for self-sufficiency and betterment. To this end, I will:

- **Improve offender re-entry into neighborhoods.** The reality is that the vast majority of offenders will be released from jail and prison and return to their neighborhoods. Studies show that a significant percentage of these will commit new crimes, unless they find support within their families and communities. To continue the City's important efforts in this area, as Mayor, I will:
 - **Put a comprehensive approach in place to ensure the successful transition of violent and non-violent adult offenders from incarceration back into the community** by directing relevant agencies in city government to collaborate on a partnership designed to reduce offender recidivism, help ex-offenders find affordable housing and meet basic needs, access substance abuse and mental health treatment services, and participate in job training and placement efforts.
 - **Set aside one-quarter of all money sent to prison inmates** (collected only after victim restitution obligations are met) to be kept in a savings account that offenders will receive when they are released from prison to help with their re-entry efforts.

- **Increase interactions of probation officers with probationers and hold mandatory probation meetings** in places near the probationer's place of employment or during off-hours so meetings do not interfere with the probationer's work responsibilities.
- **Reduce illegal drug use by expanding the availability of drug treatment.** One underlying cause of violence in Philadelphia is a thriving drug trade. The Police Department can do more to eliminate open air drug markets, seize illicit drugs, and otherwise try to disrupt this multi-billion dollar scourge on our citizens. But the police alone cannot end drug-related crime and disorder. At the same time we are bolstering the Police Department's ability to target and apprehend those involved in drug trafficking and drug-related violence, the City also must invest far more in efforts to reduce drug demand. The surest way to do this is by expanding drug treatment options in Philadelphia. I will work with the City Council to identify funding to do just that, with the ultimate long-term goal of expanding the capacity of our drug treatment system to move closer to providing drug treatment on demand. Studies show a significant long-term cost-benefit to effective drug treatment programs, in terms of reduced criminal behavior, adverse health consequences, and job turnover. But the time to make those investments in expanding the City's drug treatment capacity is now. In addition, I will work with community organizations to expand community services for drug addicts, including support groups, affordable housing, and mentoring programs.
- **Make Every City Employee Our Eyes on Crime.** I know that many residents are afraid to report crimes. The threat of witness intimidation or violence against witnesses has caused many Philadelphians to fear doing the right thing. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the Police Department and criminal justice system do their job to protect the public and restore a needed sense of trust.

But in the meantime, I also will direct, starting Day One, that every City agency and employee play an important role in protecting public safety and changing the culture of crime and violence that plagues our city. **Every city employee will be empowered, trained, and deputized to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the city and to report any violation or quality of life issue as part of a new "Ben Franklin Town Watch."** Modeled after the Center City District community service representatives, who provide public safety, communications, and hospitality services on foot throughout Center City seven days a week, City employees will be trained to watch for, identify, and abate problems that are or could become public safety or quality of life issues. This will force City agencies to produce better public safety results and re-establish order throughout the City.

- **Appoint a Mayor's Commission on Diversifying Philadelphia's Construction Industry.** A major piece of the public safety puzzle is providing hope and opportunity to those who might otherwise turn to crime and desperation. The quickest path to hope and opportunity is a good-paying job; a job instills personal accountability and pride, along with wages that provide self-sufficiency and benefits that protect a person's future. Philadelphia has a robust construction industry, but people of color have not had an equal opportunity to participate in this industry. Upon taking office, I will appoint a Mayor's Commission on Diversifying Philadelphia's Construction Industry. I will direct this Commission to provide recommendations to me within 30 days as to how best to make this happen. The City should be identifying and creating as many pathways to legitimate self-sufficiency for those who wish to choose a better path. This Commission will be an important first step to help identify one that has worked for countless others: a good-paying job in the trades.

Putting Our Money Where Our Priorities Are: Making the Commitment to Fund Crime Reduction

If the most important thing we can do for our families and our city is to fight crime, then it has to be the most important thing we can do with our tax dollars. It is easy for a politician to stand up and say he will fight crime – the real test is whether he has done it before, and whether he is willing to take the tough positions we will need to fight crime in the future.

None of these solutions will come cheap. It costs a lot of money to bring our police force back up to its historically highest level. It costs a lot of money to build more jail space to lock up offenders. It costs a lot of money to fix every security threat in every one of our schools. I will make producing that money my top priority – even though that means making other things *less* of a priority and taking unpopular steps. We already have enough politicians who tell voters they will solve our problems but won't cost them any money to do it. So I am telling you now: I will solve our crime problem – but it will cost money to do it. Here's how I will get it:

- **Cut the rest of the City budget.** On my first day in office, I will establish a Philadelphia Performance Review to find wasteful spending, improve government efficiency, and achieve immediate budget savings that will be used to fund the hiring of police officers and expanded efforts to stop crime and violence. In the past few years, a growing number of governments have used performance reviews to achieve significant savings. In Arizona, California, New Mexico, and West Virginia, governments have been able to achieve savings of up to 5 percent of their general fund budgets. Equivalent savings would generate up to \$170 million per year in Philadelphia. I'm not making a hollow promise of finding "waste" – I'm talking about a concrete process for identifying and eliminating waste, and providing specific examples of what I'm talking about. Some areas that a performance review of Philadelphia city government could target include:
 - **Reducing the cost of purchased goods** by going through the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance to save \$2.5 million. The existing contracts administered by the Purchasing Alliance cover commonly purchased items such as janitorial supplies, furniture, computers, playground equipment, and auto parts. In FY 2007, the City budgeted \$82.8 million in General Funds for materials and supplies. Even just a 3 percent improvement in would save the City \$2.5 million.
 - **Reducing funding for the City Representative/Commerce Office.** The City Representative/Commerce office increased purchased services by \$5 million in FY 2007. At the same time, the

Commerce/Economic Stimulus line received an increase of \$2 million in purchased services. It would make far more sense to use some portion of these funds to address critical safety issues, especially since this division has been cited in several City Auditor reports for poor management of personnel, purchasing, and capital projects.

- **Freeze the amount of services purchased by the City.** Services purchased by the City will grow by nearly \$4 million from FY 2007 to FY 2008. At the same time, Philadelphia has not reformed its purchasing processes or systems, such as optimizing rent contracts and maintenance contracts. Like the purchase of commodities, purchasing services needs to undergo review and reform. In the meantime, the City does not need to increase the funds spent on purchased services.
- **Re-engineering the city permitting process.** Not only would this improve service to businesses and residents by reducing processing time, it would save City costs.
- **Lead by example: Reduce the Mayor's Office budget by \$500,000 and re-direct those funds to fighting crime.** From FY05 to FY07, the Mayor's office is one of the only places in City government that did not experience any sort of budget reduction. To demonstrate my personal commitment to crime control, I will recommend that \$500,000 from the Mayor's office be re-directed to programs to make the City safer.
- **Dedicate gaming revenues to paying for cops.** The 2004 Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act authorized 14 slots-only gaming facilities in Pennsylvania, including two in Philadelphia. One result of this introduction of slot machines in Pennsylvania will be gaming revenue that will be allocated to Philadelphia beginning next year. Philadelphia may receive an estimated \$25 million annually as a result of gaming. As mayor, I will propose to dedicate a portion of these funds to hire new police officers and fight crime.
- **Support efforts to get money for new police from Harrisburg.** In an attempt to curb the rising tide of drugs, guns and violence throughout the state, legislation has been proposed to put 10,000 new police officers on the streets statewide by 2010. I will continue to work with leaders in Harrisburg to help Philadelphia – as I have for years – and specifically to see that this important bill becomes law to aid the City's efforts to hire new police officers.

- **Step up collection of luxury box rental fees from the new sports stadiums– and dedicate them to fighting crime.** In FY 2007, the City plans to generate \$8 million in Luxury Box Rental Fees – but this is a fee that the City in fact has consistently failed to collect. The City should be sure these rental fees get paid and dedicate this added revenue to making Philadelphia safer.

My Public Safety Record

“I’m not talking about Safe Streets, Safer Streets, or what’s next? Safest Streets? Safer Streets, don’t confuse that with YVRP. The city hasn’t really funded that either, none of it. [State Rep.] Dwight Evans has secured money for YVRP.”

*-- District Attorney Lynne Abraham
Philadelphia Metro News, September 29, 2006*

“Evans has been the most active elected official in Philadelphia when it comes to fighting violence. His Blueprint has spawned a host of useful programs.”

*-- Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial Page
Philadelphia Inquirer, September 14, 2006*

“[Evans is] one candidate who can point to years of initiatives he generated showing results in stemming shootings, even if only in a limited area. He won’t need to talk about what he’ll do. He can point to what he’s done.”

*-- Philadelphia Daily News Columnist John Baer
Philadelphia Daily News, July 20, 2006*

“All of the candidates will tell you what they’d like to do as Mayor; some of it may even seem believable. But you have to ask yourself if that person’s record matches their rhetoric. What in that person’s past would lead you to believe that a promise made will be a promise kept? You know that everything I propose I will deliver on because I have already done it.”

-- Dwight Evans

This is an ambitious public safety agenda to tackle immediately upon taking office. But unlike other candidates, I have a track record of getting things done, particularly in the area of public safety.

I have a long record of being tough on crime. I authored legislation increasing the penalty for the use of a gun in a crime and wrote legislation creating the state’s first prison boot camp. More importantly, though, I believe in being smart on crime. I have funded the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia, described below, a ten-year comprehensive violence prevention campaign that seeks to help our children “unlearn” violent behavior. I also have fought for funding of other community-based crime-prevention programs, an offender’s work re-entry program and for funding of programs designed to increase parental involvement in their child’s education.

In 1993, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives created a Select Committee to investigate the issue of Juvenile Crime, and I have played a significant role in shaping the work of the Committee. In 1994, the Select Committee issued a report, developing the Pennsylvania Anti-Violence Education Initiative (PAVE). As co-chair of this initiative, I led efforts to study the causes of violence in schools and communities and to evaluate programs that sought to prevent violent behavior among Pennsylvania's youth.

In 1995, Governor Tom Ridge called a Special Session of the General Assembly to address the issue of Crime. During this session, I supported laws that led to tougher sentences, helped provide funding for DNA laboratories, and advocated for additional support services for at-risk youth. Also in the mid-1990's, I founded the Firearms Safety Caucus in the General Assembly; this group pushed for common-sense firearms legislation and for city action against gun manufacturers.

In 1997, as a member of a group of bipartisan legislators called the "Gang of Five" by the Philadelphia Inquirer, I held hearings on new managerial approaches to policing. I included former New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton in panel discussions and urged then Mayor Ed Rendell to hire Bratton as a consultant. This directly led to the Mayor hiring John Timoney as Philadelphia Police Commissioner. As a result of these town meetings, I also pushed for quality of life legislation, including rewriting abandoned vehicle legislation to make it easier to remove blighted vehicles from our neighborhoods.

Troubled by the senseless and tragic death of Faheem-Thomas Childs in 2004, I joined with Governor Ed Rendell, US Attorney Patrick Meehan, District Attorney Lynne Abraham and a host of other elected officials in crafting a wholly different approach to preventing the youth violence devastating our communities. The result was the innovative "Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia," a ten-year violence prevention strategy designed to eradicate youth violence in our city. Funded by more than \$40 million in state resources, the Blueprint draws on national public health models and an innovative social marketing campaign to help our children "unlearn" violent behavior. A variety of community groups, a broad social services network, and a hotline all provide resources to any Philadelphian seeking to break the chains of violence that bind our city and prevent us from reaching our full potential.

Certainly one of the leading contributors to wave of murder and violence in Philadelphia is the proliferation of illegal guns and the need for more crime-fighting tools for the city. Recognizing this, I forced the Republican-led General Assembly to focus on crime and violence in a rare three-day session – called a "Committee of the Whole" – debating proposals and trying to build a consensus on legislation to address the problem of illegal handguns, crime and violence. The fact that there were three days of discussion is a victory in and of itself, given that six months ago, members were not even allowed to talk about these proposals in committee.

The Committee of the Whole process spurred discussions in not only Pennsylvania's Capitol, but around the Commonwealth. I went on "Listening Tours" throughout Philadelphia and heard citizens call for more police on the streets, tougher handgun laws, witness protection, and social programs to strengthen our neighborhoods. As a result of these listening tours, I helped develop over 30 of the 200 proposals that were discussed in this session. While the votes on the proposals were "advisory" only, I was encouraged that the House recommended hiring up to 10,000 more police officers and a variety of other measures designed to reduce violence.

Even with all of this progress, it's not enough. Until we stop the flow of illegal handguns into our neighbors – until innocent children are once again safe – I will not rest, and I will work tirelessly with law-abiding Philadelphians, community groups, the police, and prosecutors until we change the culture of violence that has a stranglehold on our city.

The question for these law-abiding Philadelphians in this election is simple – **whether we need a Mayor who has spent years working to reduce crime and who has the ideas, the experience, and the record to do so as Mayor.**