



KNOX FOR PHILLY

Stopping the Violence: A Plan for Action



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Stopping the Violence: A Plan for Action

Every day, we open our newspapers, turn on the TV or radio and hear the sad news - somewhere in Philadelphia, another human being has been gunned down. Sometimes the victims are drug dealers and other criminals caught in the violence they perpetuate. Sometimes they're innocent bystanders, caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. As a result of this epidemic, far too many families live in fear in their own neighborhoods. One local newspaper even publishes a running homicide total. How high does that total have to reach before we are committed to finding a way to stop the violence? How many people have to die before we say, "No more"?

"Stopping the Violence" is a catchy phrase. But what does it mean and what can we do? I envision a long-term and multi-faceted approach. First, we need to give our police department the tools they need to get a tough job done. We have to enforce existing laws and demand tough prosecution. Better coordination of existing agencies and of resources will maximize their impact. Community involvement is key, which is why we need to find a way to get parents, religious institutions and community groups like Town Watch fully engaged in this effort. Finally, we must revitalize education and encourage new economic opportunities in our city. We have to find a way to keep kids in school and their futures bright. We must create

more good-paying jobs so people are less likely to be attracted to crime.

We also have to stop the flood of illegal guns into the city. My plan demands local authority for Philadelphia to enact tougher gun laws. I led a petition campaign that collected over 80,000 signatures demanding authority for Philadelphia to pass local gun laws, and I traveled to Harrisburg with members of murder victims' families to present the petitions to Governor Rendell, who in turn agreed to give them to the state legislature. I'm proposing harsher court prosecution penalties and forfeiture laws for both gun and drug violations.

My plan calls for additional resources for law enforcement: 1,000 new uniformed officers, a 911 system that works, and security cameras on city streets and in crime hotspots. My plan also ensures better coordination of existing anti-violence resources through the creation of a Mayor's Office of Public Safety.

We'll work to build neighborhood support. I'll implement a community-oriented criminal justice system with City Action Centers, where officers, judges, prosecutors and parole officers are all assigned to specific neighborhoods. I'll implement a neighborhood-based 311 non-emergency reporting system. And when a drug house needs to be closed down, I'll do whatever's necessary to get it done.

People with good jobs and hopeful futures

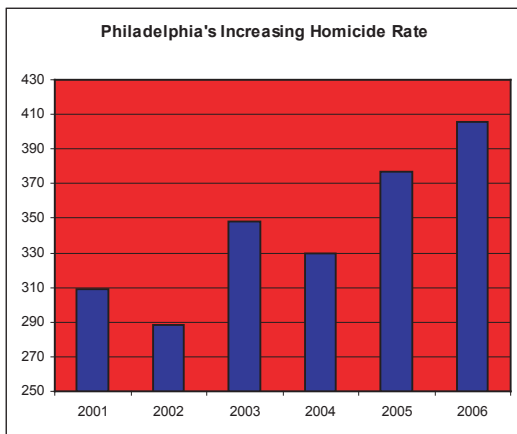


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don't kill. They don't commit violent crimes. So my plan focuses on providing at-risk youth with proven and inclusive services (including drug treatment and mentorship programs), helping the Philadelphia public school system substantially increase job training program choices and graduation rates, and fully funding the Community College of Philadelphia's job training and workforce development programs.

My goal is to break the cycle of violence in Philadelphia. I pledge the execution of my anti-violence plan. Until then, you can get involved by calling 215-546-TIPS when you see a crime, by becoming a block captain or joining Town Watch and other local community group.

Law enforcement alone cannot stem the violence. Only by working together as a community can we help. Each life is precious and each day, more of them are lost. With your help, we can begin to stop the violence now.



My plan also calls for:

New Resources for Law Enforcement:

1. Hiring 1000 new uniformed officers.
2. Bringing Police Technology and Tactics into the 21st Century.

Better Coordination of Existing Resources:

3. Creating a Mayor's office of Public Safety.

Cracking Down on Illegal Guns:

4. Implementing Tough New Gun Laws

Community Engagement:

5. Incorporate an anonymous crime tipline into an effective 311 system.
6. Support citizen groups such as Town Watch.
7. Implement a system of community-based criminal justice.

Long Term Initiatives:

8. Reduce recidivism by 25%.
9. Implement new job training and education programs
10. Support at-risk youth.
11. Improve the Philadelphia School District.

Fighting Drugs:

12. Close down drug houses.
13. Implement a three-pronged initiative aimed at fighting addiction.



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My goal is to break the cycle of violence in Philadelphia. I pledge the execution of my anti-violence plan. It is time to understand that law enforcement alone cannot stem the violence. Only by working together as a community can we help. Each life is precious and each day more are lost. With your help, we can stop the violence now.



The Plan, in detail

Additional Resources for Law Enforcement

1. Hire 1,000 New Officers:

Philadelphia needs more police officers on the street, making sure that the city is better protected. Though overtime programs are helpful, nothing will replace the impact that new officers will have. A greater police presence will enhance the PPD's ability to prevent crime and

investigate crime and catch criminals; allow for greater support of the Bureau of Violence and Crime Control; and foster cooperation between residents and police officers. The hiring of new officers will enable the department to expand community policing initiatives such as same officer/same beat policing, bicycle patrols, and community outreach. Finally, the hiring of new officers will allow specialized units like the Homicide Unit, Narcotics Unit, and Special Victims Unit to remain fully staffed and in the best position possible to do their critical work.



The size of the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) peaked in 1979 at just under 8,000. Today, the police department has a roster of less than 6,500 officers. The most recent peak for the police department – 7,000 officers – occurred in 2003.

I propose an initial expansion of 1,000



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new uniformed officers.

Cost and funding: In my first five-year plan, I will dedicate \$260M over the life of the plan to the hiring of these new officers. I propose funding these new positions through a combination of cost and efficiency savings and workforce reduction through attrition of other city departments. As civil servants retire and City Hall learns to do more with less, I will grow the city's police force so that our resources are going where they are needed most.

2. Bring the Police Force into the 21st Century

Philadelphia deserves a larger, more efficient, and better-equipped police force. For too long, our police officers have been hindered by an ineffective 800-megahertz system, a 911 system that can't trace the locations of cell phones, and the absence of security cameras in the city streets and crime hotspots. I propose a renewed commitment to the utilization of 21st-century technology in support of crime prevention and investigation in Philadelphia.

Cost and Funding: I will invest \$50M dollars over five years in purchasing new, cutting-edge policing equipment. The annual operating cost of the security camera network will be determined by a discussion with my Police Commissioner, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, the District Attorney, City Council, and industry experts. To fund these programs, I will

tap into the dollars that are available through the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Areas Security Initiative, 3COM's Urban Challenge grants, and other funding sources. I am confident we can use these dollars to bring our police force and other first responders into the 21st century.

Better Coordination of Existing Antiviolence Resources

3. Create a Mayor's Office of Public Safety

No single program - law enforcement, community engagement, or private sector partnerships - can alone curtail violence. There are many organizations carrying out antiviolence initiatives. The Philadelphia Police Department, the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, the local office of the U.S. Attorney, the local desks of the FBI, the BATFE, the Department of Human Services and the DEA, the School District of Philadelphia, and more than 100 community-based organizations are all trying in some way to curtail violence. Lack of coordination of this changing landscape has produced both gaps and redundancies in our antiviolence efforts. Given the crisis we are facing, no resources should go underutilized. I propose the creation of a Mayor's Office of Public Safety - an office that can coordinate all of Philadelphia's antiviolence programs, both government and

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community-based, in order to avoid both duplications and gaps in Philadelphia's antiviolence programs.

While the combined budget of Philadelphia's antiviolence stakeholders easily totals hundreds of millions of dollars, federal support continues to shrink. Cuts to a number of valuable programs (including the complete elimination of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, and the Drug-Free Communities Support Program) serve only to underscore the need for an office which can effectively coordinate our remaining resources and lobby for additional ones.

The right office, staffed by the right person with the necessary powers, can have real impact. The Mayor's Office of Public Safety, which could be funded primarily through state and federal grants, would be led by a Deputy Mayor for Public Safety. The office would have budgetary oversight for city programs, the capacity to act as a coordinator for all the involved organizations, and the ability to set Philadelphia's overall antiviolence strategy. In addition to the \$514M it directs to the Philadelphia Police Department, the city also directs more than \$60M to nearly 170 different organizations, each with distinct methods and goals, all of which have stopping violence as part of their mission. This new public safety office would

direct funding so that, in conjunction with the District Attorney, the Police Commissioner, and others, the money can be spent efficiently and effectively.

Cost and Funding: \$250,000 per year. I will fund this office through a combination of Department of Justice Grants (as Houston does for its Mayor's Anti-Gang office) and the Mayor's existing budget for deputy mayors.

Tougher Gun Laws

4. Crack Down on Illegal Guns

There's a common-sense link between a vast legal gun supply and gun crime. Nine out of every 10 guns used in crimes are purchased by someone other than the person committing the crime. Twenty-two percent of guns used in gun crimes can be traced back to straw purchases and 32% of felons report acquiring their most recent handgun through theft. The Pennsylvania General Assembly is crippling Philadelphia's antiviolence efforts by prohibiting Philadelphia from creating local gun laws. Right now, Philadelphia is prevented from implementing:

A. New anti-trafficking laws such as limiting purchases to one gun per month and adding requirements for police notification of bulk transportation of guns - thus reducing straw purchases and cutting down on illegal



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back door and back alley bulk sales of guns.

B. Waiting periods on handgun purchases. Pennsylvania currently has no required waiting period for purchasing guns, making buying a gun so easy, it can be done on a lunch break.

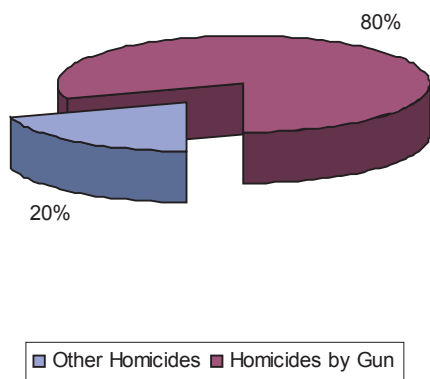
C. Gun safety, safe storage, and gun licensure requirements. Philadelphians can currently buy guns with no knowledge required of how to use them – thus increasing the likelihood of accident and misuse, or how to store them – thus increasing the likelihood of theft or accidental discharge.

providing criminals with easily-obtainable and disposable firearms. Many cities and states ban the sale and possession of such guns within their jurisdictions for this very reason.

E. Gun Registration laws. Philadelphia currently has no idea how many guns are in the city nor where they are. Such registration data would assist police in investigating illegal gun dealers, tracing crime guns, and holding gun owners accountable for their weapons.

F. Ballistic fingerprinting laws. Ballistic fingerprinting enables law enforcement agencies to more effectively trace the bullets found at crime scenes to the guns that fired them.

The Use of Guns in Homicides in Philadelphia



D. Bans on “Junk Guns” and “Saturday Night Specials”. The manufacture and sale of these cheap handguns have only one purpose:

Community Engagement

5. 311 System:

Anonymous tip lines are useful but under-utilized tools for investigating crime. Many cities, including New York, Baltimore, and Chicago, have successfully implemented 311 call lines for citizen service requests. Residents can call 311 in these cities to do everything from requesting pothole repair, to gathering information, to offering tips on unsolved crimes. I propose the implementation of a 311 call system as a replacement for our current tip lines, complete with voice, e-mail, and text message access. An easy-to-remember citizen service request line will foster community engagement,

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ease the strain on our 911 system, and provide police with a critical source of crime-solving information.

Cost and Funding: The yearly operating cost for most large cities that have a 311 system vary. The savings achieved can, however, top \$60M dollars per year, depending on the level of reforms already in place.

6. Continued Support for Safe Corridors and Town Watch Groups

Stopping the violence will require more than law enforcement. It will require the efforts of every Philadelphian. Safe Corridor and Town Watch groups are valuable partners in the fight against violent crime. I applaud the efforts of Philadelphia's existing groups and propose the identification of additional funding sources for their operation.

7. Community-Based Criminal Justice

The primary goal of our Criminal Justice System is to keep each of Philadelphia's communities safe. To that end, I propose that we implement a system of community-oriented criminal justice. Police officers can do their jobs more effectively when the same officer is assigned to the same beat. The same is true for prosecutors, judges, and parole officers. I propose the creation of criminal justice districts, the development of City Action Centers within each district,

the hiring of more parole and probation officers, and the assignment of an appropriate number of prosecutors, judges, and parole officers to each district. Community Oriented Criminal Justice and the creation of City Action Centers will provide a much-needed linchpin for antiviolence efforts in each community. All community stakeholders – residents, non-profits, and businesses alike – will be able to identify, support, and collaborate with the prosecutors, judges, and parole officers who are responsible for their safety.

Costs and Funding: Costs and funding will vary depending upon the extent to which we choose to implement these reforms. As Mayor, I will work with the best minds in criminal justice to help me flesh out and implement this long-term vision.

Long Term Initiatives – Breaking the Cycle of Violence.

8. Ending the cycle of violence: Reducing Recidivism by 25%.

Training Programs for Prisoners: The Philadelphia Prison System has turned into a revolving door for violent offenders. The Urban Institute found that more than half of the individuals who were incarcerated over a five-year period were incarcerated and released on average 3.5 times. More than two-thirds are

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expected to be rearrested for a felony or misdemeanor within three years.

As Mayor, I will implement an innovative reentry program that will cut recidivism for violent offenders by more by 25% over four years. I propose a three-pronged training program for Philadelphia's prisoners.

First, I will implement a program modeled on a proven antiviolence program. San Francisco's Resolve to Stop the Violence Program (RSVP) has dramatically reduced rates of recidivism among participants. An inmate who spends at least 4 months in the program is up to 80% less likely to be rearrested for a violent crime.

Second, Philadelphia's own Treatment Court (modeled on a program that reduced the recidivism rate to 16.5% for graduates after one year, and 27.5% after two years) is an underutilized tool in the fight against drug crime. Recidivism rates for offenders who do not participate in a treatment court range from 60 to 70%. We should expand Treatment Court to make greater use of its innovative strategies.

Third, I will expand funding for the Community College of Philadelphia so that the men and women who are incarcerated in Philadelphia's Prison System can acquire marketable job skills and compete for well-paying jobs upon release.

Costs and Funding: RSVP carries a

significant per-prisoner premium. The average cost per treatment court participant is \$3,500, and a 15 person Community College class costs \$4,200. Given the estimated \$29,000 to incarcerate a prisoner for one year in Philadelphia, a 25% reduction in recidivism among violent offenders will create real savings. The FY2006 budget for the Philadelphia Prison System is \$186,613,381. A 25% reduction in that budget would amount to \$46,653,345 saved annually – \$46.6M that could be spent on Philadelphia's public health centers, libraries and parks. Initial funding for RSVP and an expanded Treatment Court program will have to come from savings in other city departments, but in the long run, savings (in terms of money and lives) will be dramatic.

9. Effective Job Training and Education

The greatest long-term impediment to crime is economic development. People with well-paying jobs can provide stable, positive environments for themselves and for their families, and are far less likely to commit crimes. Economic opportunity creates community stakeholders and spurs community members to take an active role in discouraging others from the "street life".

To that end, I propose a massive new expansion in Philadelphia's job training and workforce development programs. The City of

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Philadelphia does not currently meet its funding obligations for the Community College of Philadelphia. Such funding, if made available to Community College, could fuel new job training and soft skills programs for the unemployed and underemployed. As a truly public college, Community College is a gem of an institution and a tremendous vehicle for workforce training, economic development, and improving lives. Let's use it to its fullest potential.

10. Supporting At-Risk Youth

While short-term initiatives can help restore order, we must also combat the underlying causes of crime with long-term initiatives. One such long-term initiative is supporting at-risk youth with intensive services. Philadelphia is home to a proven program, the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP). YVRP's results are impressive.

Costs and Funding: As Mayor, I will seek to double their budget through a combination of new grants and transitioning funding from ineffective youth programs to YVRP.

11. Improving the Philadelphia School District

While we continue to support at-risk youth, we must also work towards a future in which no children are at risk in the first place. A graduation rate of 55.5% is simply unacceptable. I challenge Paul Vallas and the School

Reform Commission to improve on that number by expanding the number of options available to youth in the Philadelphia School District today. Many students drop out because they feel that they will have no economic viability when they graduate. I applaud the public-private partnerships that have produced schools like the Microsoft School of the Future and the Constitution Center High School, and encourage growth of viable educational options for our youth. We should provide the opportunity to go to college to every young person who dreams of doing so, but we must also expand options for every young person wishing to pursue career-oriented training and education, because only 9% of high school district students are enrolled in such programs. When the school district becomes a place in which every young person is challenged to pursue his or her dream and provided with the resources to do so, no matter what that dream is, we will no longer worry about our children being at risk. We will only have to watch with pride at how far they go.

Fighting Drugs

12. Close Down Drug Houses

There is no more powerful symbol of our crime problem than the drug house. It attracts crime and disorder. It supports the drug abuse that tears apart people's lives and cost the life of

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my brother Michael. As Mayor, I will work with community members, our police, and our judicial system to do everything I can to stop the illegal activity and, when necessary, tear down these properties and reuse them in a way that is more beneficial to the neighborhood as affordable housing or as green space.

13. A Three-Pronged Approach to Fighting Addiction

The sale and use of drugs, so tragically integral to the cycle of violence, must be stopped. Drug sales spur violence, wound communities, and use the allure of quick money to put Philadelphia's youth in harm's way. Drug use claims lives and destabilizes families. I know, because I lost my brother to drugs.

I propose a three-pronged approach to fighting drugs. First, additional funding for drug treatment programs, including Treatment Court, will allow current users to get clean and put their lives back together. Second, an office at the highest level of government will be created and charged with developing a citywide strategy for tackling drug abuse. Finally, additional resources for law enforcement, particularly the hiring of more police officers and the use of fixed and mobile surveillance cameras in drug hotspots, will deter drug sales and improve Philadelphia police department investigations.

Five-Year Cost: \$423.75M

Average annual cost: \$84.75M

- \$52M to hire new police officers
- \$250,000 to open the Mayors Office of Public Safety
- \$10M for cameras and other technology to bring our police force into the 21st century
- \$10M for RSVP Philly, \$4.9M for Community College training for prisoners, and \$1.5M for Treatment Court
- \$6.1M for doubling the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership's budget

Funding: My plan for fighting violence in Philadelphia represents a significant dedication of resources over the next five years. I am confident that we can fund the Mayor's Office of Public Safety, the purchase of equipment to bring our police force into the 21st century, and the expansion of YVRP through grants, the sale of confiscated assets, and other revenue streams. Other initiatives, such as the hiring of more police officers and my proposed reentry initiatives, will be paid for with existing revenues. Much of that money will be freed by eliminating waste and inefficiency in city government, and the rest will be freed through attrition reductions in the city workforce. As civil servants retire and City Hall learns to do more with less,

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I will reinvest our tax dollars in the programs that matter.

- Tom Knox

Ways you can get involved today.

- 1) "See something, say something." Call the Citizen's Crime Commission at 215-546-TIPS to report crimes.
- 2) Take back your neighborhood! Become a Block Captain, join Town Watch, or join other community groups.

5) State Gun Laws. The Brady Campaign to Stop Gun Violence. <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/legislation/state/viewstate.php?st=pa>

6) Phila. graduates 55.5% of freshmen, A new study says the U.S. average is 70% for finishing high school with a diploma. By Martha Woodall, Inquirer Staff Writer. Jun. 21, 2006

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