



LYNNE ABRAHAM
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NEWS ALERT

Date: September 9, 2004
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NEWS CONFERENCE---TWO ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. District Attorney Lynne Abraham and School District of Philadelphia CEO Paul Vallas Announce New Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice Curriculum for Crime Prevention**
- 2. D.A. Donates School Supplies for 1000 Students in Annual 'Tools for Schools' Initiative**

**WHEN: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2004
11AM**

**WHERE: DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
FIRST FLOOR PRESS ROOM**

Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice Curriculum

September 9, 2004---District Attorney Lynne Abraham and School District of Philadelphia CEO Paul Vallas today announced a new Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice curriculum for Philadelphia schools that will teach middle school students the fundamentals of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice systems and the consequences of criminal conduct. The goal of the new curriculum is to educate students and prevent criminal conduct.

The District Attorney's Office created the new curriculum as an educational tool and crime-prevention initiative because many students falsely believe that juvenile records are necessarily sealed or automatically wiped clean crime when a person turns eighteen. This new curriculum is designed to teach students about the juvenile and criminal justice systems and to teach students that there are consequences for criminal conduct, even for juveniles.

“Today is exciting because it marks the formal roll-out of our new Juvenile Justice Curriculum that was created by the District Attorney,” said School District of Philadelphia CEO Paul Vallas. “The curriculum is designed to teach sixth, seventh and eighth grade students about the juvenile and criminal justice system and the consequences of delinquent and criminal conduct.”

The classes are designed for students between 11 and 13 years old and will be included in the Social Studies curriculum. Classes will be held once a week for a 45-minute period. The goal is to steer students away from crime through education.

“As District Attorney, it is my mission to prevent crime whenever and wherever I can,” said D.A. Lynne Abraham. “Many students believe the myth that juvenile crime doesn't mean much. It does. The truth is that there are consequences to juvenile crime that can follow a juvenile into adulthood and affect them for the rest of their lives.”

The district attorney's office developed two study guides for the new curriculum, one for teachers and one for students. The curriculum is designed to teach students about the juvenile/criminal justice system and the consequences of delinquent/criminal conduct. The curriculum also covers victim awareness issues including the impact of gun violence, the fiscal impact on society of crimes such as auto theft, and the impact of drug and alcohol use and the consequences of selling drugs. Students are encouraged to explore the relevance of crime and to consider ways to avoid involvement.

The subject matter will be taught through traditional lectures, mock trials, case studies, scenarios, guest speakers, videos and panel discussions combining law enforcement with students. Research papers and testing will gauge learning and will also provide teachers the opportunity to learn from their students.

Students will also learn basic legal concepts such as search and seizure, probable cause, federal drug penalties, forfeiture of property and direct file cases. For example, direct file cases are those cases involving juveniles age 15 or older, who are arrested for certain specific felonies and are charged as an adult.

“This curriculum is crime-prevention through education,” said D.A. Lynne Abraham. “Today’s students are often faced with a lot of peer pressure. It is my hope that once students realize that there are serious consequences to criminal conduct, they will make good choices for themselves and lead their peers into making good choices for their lives, too.”

District Attorney Lynne Abraham’s “Tools for Schools” Initiative

September 9, 2004---District Attorney Lynne Abraham today announced that 1000 students would receive school supplies through her annual ‘Tools for Schools’ initiative, sponsored by ACME Markets, CIGNA, Ms. Mary McGrath, Mr. Steve Atlas and The Academy of Natural Sciences.

“I want to thank all of this year’s sponsors for their overwhelming generosity,” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. Due to their generous contributions, we will be giving away twice as many school supplies as last year so that 1000 school children will be prepared for classes.”

“On behalf of the School District of Philadelphia, I would like to thank Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham and everyone who contributed to our Tools For Schools initiative,” said Paul Vallas, CEO of the School District of Philadelphia. “School supplies for one thousand students will go a long way in starting the new school year off right.”

In addition to the book bags, students will receive a full complement of supplies including coloring books, composition books, glue sticks, crayons, scissors, erasers, binders, paper, spiral notebooks, pens and pencils and calculators. The supplies will be distributed to the following community leaders and elected officials, who will in turn distribute them to elementary and middle school students in their respective neighborhoods and districts:

Ann Brown, South and Southwest Philadelphia
Paul Earthquake Moore--Southwest Philadelphia
Ralph Wynder, East Philadelphia

State Rep. Jewell Williams
State Rep. W. Curtis Thomas
State Rep. LeAnna Washington
Councilmember Jannie Blackwell
Council President Anna Verna
Councilmember Juan Ramos
Councilmember Marion Tasco
Councilmember Rick Mariano
Councilmember James Kenney

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