



City of Philadelphia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL FORUM ON YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION MEETING

Philadelphia, December 6, 2012 – A delegation of City of Philadelphia officials will next travel to Washington, D.C. early next week, December 10th and 11th, to meet with officials from The White House, the Department of Justice and delegations from the nine other cities participating in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, a program of the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The City of Philadelphia was selected in September as one of four Forum expansion cities, along with Camden, NJ, Minneapolis, MN, and New Orleans, LA.

This meeting will be the official kick-off to the four cities' strategic planning processes as new members of the OJJDP's National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. The strategic planning process in all four cities will include continuous feedback from affected communities, and will lead to the development of a strategic plan for youth violence prevention in those cities.

On September 19, 2012, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Melodee Hanes, OJJDP Acting Administrator, and U.S. Attorney Zane Memeger announced that the City of Philadelphia was awarded two Department of Justice grants: the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and the Community Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program. Both grants target community 'hotspots' plagued by gun violence and homicides.

"The Obama Administration recognizes the importance of federal and local partnerships in helping to resolve persistent challenges that cities face," said Mayor Nutter. "By including the City of Philadelphia in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, the Department of Justice is demonstrating its clear commitment to tackling the issue of youth violence in our Nation's cities."

On November 27th and November 28th, the City of Philadelphia took the first step as a member city in the OJJDP's National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention by hosting a "Listening Session" meeting for federal partners in Philadelphia. Attendees included Acting Assistant Attorney General Mary Lou Leary and her Chief of Staff Thomas Abt, along with members from OJJDP, the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Education, and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD). During the Listening Session's two-day agenda, Mayor Nutter



announced that the City's strategic planning process will be led by an executive steering committee, co-chaired by the Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas Family Division The Honorable Kevin Dougherty, Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey, and City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose.

"On behalf of my fellow co-chairs, I would like to thank the federal government for choosing Philadelphia as a National Forum city and the Mayor for choosing me and my colleagues to lead Philadelphia's efforts to reduce youth violence," said Commissioner Ambrose. "We are committed to using multi-disciplinary partnerships, balanced approaches and data-driven strategies to accomplish meaningful youth violence prevention in our great city."

The Listening Session also featured meetings with City officials, including City Councilman Curtis Jones, Chair of the Public Safety Committee; a PhillyRising tour of the Strawberry Mansion and Swampoodle neighborhoods; a focus group with young people and their parents affected by violence; a panel of academic experts on youth violence; and a panel of community partners who presented their work.

National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

Launched in 2010 at the direction of President Obama, the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention is a network of communities and federal agencies that share information and build local capacity to prevent and reduce youth violence. Philadelphia will join three other cities, New Orleans, Minneapolis, and Camden, N.J., as new additions to the forum, to begin working collaboratively with the federal government and other cities to address persistent urban challenges.

The first six communities, who began participating in 2011, were Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, Salinas (CA), and San Jose (CA). The Departments of Justice, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and Labor; the Corporation for National and Community Service and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy are the forum's federal partners. The new cities were selected through a competitive application process.

In order to participate in the Forum, the City of Philadelphia had to demonstrate the ability to form its own local coalition, which will be known as the Violence Prevention Collaborative, dedicated to addressing the issue of youth violence.

The Violence Prevention Collaborative includes, but is not limited to, the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP), PhillyRising, Juvenile and Adult Probation, the Philadelphia Police Department, the Mayor's Office of Education, Police Athletic League, the First Judicial District, the Office of the District Attorney, the Mayor's Office of Community Services, the Mayor's Office of Reintegration Services for Ex-Offenders(RISE), the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, the School District of Philadelphia, and non-profit partners. The collaboration will focus on targeted "hotspot" areas with a goal to decrease the overall rate of violence in Philadelphia.

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