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# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** June 17, 2004  
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## **District Attorney Lynne Abraham Announces The Winners of “The Urban Genesis Community Spirit Awards”**

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**What: Press Conference**

**When: Thursday, June 17, 2004**

**Time: 11AM**

**Where: 1421 Arch St., District Attorney's First Floor Press Room**

June 17, 2004 --- District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham will announce the winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Urban Genesis Community Spirit Awards”-- honoring ordinary Philadelphians for doing extraordinary things.

**Mr. Steve Loielo, 35**, winner of The Wrice-Campbell Award for Neighborhood Safety. Steve is a disabled member of The Fox Chase Town Watch who devotes countless hours to protecting the community by participating in weekend night patrols and spending many hours of his own time walking through the neighborhood. In addition to his Town Watch involvement, Steve assists the Fox Chase Champions; an organization that provides recreational activities to physically and mentally challenged Kids. Steve serves as an assistant coach and also shares information with the kids that he learns from his Boy Scout troop.

**Ms. Queia Tiarra Young, 18**, winner of The James Mills Award for Positive Youth Development. Ms. Young's deep involvement with the youth in her community made her an ideal recipient for this award. As a member of the Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ, Ms. Young has made it her goal to educate her peers about the negative effects of drugs, violence, and premarital sex. Ms. Young is part of the Youth Outreach Adolescent Community Awareness Program. The program promotes dialogue about serious issues teens face by performing skits and organizing workshops. She encourages youth-involved community services such as Teen Summits and Red-Cross Blood Drives and tutors at the Mt. Airy After School Program. Ms. Young is also a Captain of the Senior Saints Drill

Team, a member of the Carver High School of Engineering & Science Pep Squad, Vice President of the National BETA Club, and a member of the Youth Choir. This fall, Ms. Young will be attending Spelman College with hopes of becoming a pharmacist and continuing her work in the community.

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**Mr. Malcolm Welles, 18**, winner of The Officer Tony Johnson Award for Educational Advancement. Mr. Welles, a senior at Simon Gratz High School was selected as The Male Sport Ambassador of the Year. Malcolm is the starting guard on the Varsity Basketball Team, which is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> placed in the City and has traveled to Italy and Australia with the People to People Sports Ambassadors. Off the court, Mr. Welles has maintained perfect attendance record for grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> and has excelled in his academics by becoming a member of several honor societies, including The National Society of High School Scholars and the Rebecca Gratz Chapter of the National Honor Society. Mr. Welles is also an active member in his church and community. He is a Certified Spiritual Counselor at the Christian Stronghold Baptist Church and counselor at the John Chaney and Sonny Hill Basketball Camp. Mr. Welles was selected to be the representative of the State of Pennsylvania at the National Leadership Program in Washington D.C and was the recipient of the prestigious Who's Who Among American High School Students award.

**Mr. Howard McKelvey, 17**, winner of The Officer Tony Johnson Award for Educational Advancement. Blessed with a special musical talent and the drive to give back to his community, Mr. McKelvey is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in a class of 350 at Martin Luther King High School. He is in his fourth year of playing trumpet for the All City Band, the All City Jazz Band and community-based Tony Williams Jazz Band. Mr. McKelvey also filled in for his sick music teacher to lead the school band in their Pep-Rally and Thanksgiving Day Parade. Mr. McKelvey is in his seventh year as a member of the Philadelphia Town Watch and has worked with the Philadelphia Horticultural Society and Philadelphia Green to plan, build, and maintain the David P. Richardson Garden. He also volunteered on the Houston School Build-a-Playground Project. Fluent in American Sign Language, Mr. McKelvey is a nurturing brother to eight foster siblings, five of whom are deaf. He has used this gift to volunteer at the Pennsylvania School of the Deaf and teach the deaf and mentally challenged about the importance of community beautification. Mr. McKelvey's leadership skills assisted him in being selected to the Tavis Smiley Youth to Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Community Spirit Awards are made possible through Urban Genesis Inc., the non-profit charitable foundation that the District Attorney founded in 1992.

Urban Genesis, Inc., will recognize these four Philadelphians for their outstanding contributions in the above categories by awarding a \$250.00 check to the Fox Chase Town Watch on behalf of Mr. Loielo and Mr. Loielo will receive a check for \$250.00, a \$500.00 check to Ms. Young and a \$500 scholarship to both Mr. Welles and Mr. McKelvey will be sent to the Universities of their choice.

The winners of these awards were selected from about 100 nominees. The surviving family members for whom the awards were named selected the winners based on the merits of their essays.