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NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham Sells Former Drug House for \$1.00 to 'Casa Dominicana' Community Group

Former Crack House To Become Arts, Culture and Educational Center for the Dominican Community

WHAT: News Conference
WHEN: Tuesday February 1, 2005
11AM
WHERE: 1921 E. Allegheny Ave. (between Kensington and Frankford and E. Wishart and E. Hilton)

District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham today sold for \$1.00 a former crack house to Casa Dominicana, a 501 C 3 community group, who will renovate the property and transform it into a community center for the Dominican community.

“There is no better investment than an investment in our neighborhoods and the quality of life for our citizens,” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. “Thanks to the commitment and determination of CEO Danny del Orbe and all of the members of Casa Dominicana, this former crack house will be a neighborhood jewel.”

The former crack house was a scourge on the neighborhood with constant drug traffic in and out of the house at all hours of the day and night. The District Attorney's Drug Forfeiture Unit seized the house in July 2002 after an undercover police officer made two controlled purchases of crack cocaine at the location. Police recovered an additional 51 packets of crack when they executed a search warrant on the property. The dealer was arrested and convicted and is currently serving 11-1/2 to 23 months in jail for drug dealing.

“This former crack house will be a nerve center for the community,” said Danny del Orbe, CEO of Casa Dominicana, which means ‘Dominican House.’ “We want to thank Lynne Abraham for her generosity.”

Casa Dominicana was formed in 1997 and now comprises approximately forty members. They have big plans for the property, which will offer everything from folkloric ballet to information for immigrants. The group will also offer lectures, dance training for children, cultural fairs, child care, housing information, mental health counseling and will serve as a convenient meeting place for the neighborhood.

This is the twelfth former drug house that District Attorney Abraham has sold for \$1.00 to a non-profit organization in her continuing mission to prevent crime and improve the quality of life for Philadelphians.