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NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 12, 2005
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District Attorney Lynne Abraham Presents Budget Testimony to City Council

Emphasis is on Gun Crime and Public Safety

District Attorney Lynne Abraham today presented to City council her budget testimony for fiscal year 2006, which runs from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

D.A. Abraham thanked Council for their continued support of her office and requested that her budget not be cut, but remain the same.

“Our primary concerns are gun crime and public safety,” said Abraham. “In light of the recent wave of gun violence on our streets, these words resound even more loudly today.”

She cited the many new public safety initiatives in the “Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia,” which was enacted after the murder of Faheem Thomas-Childs. The new initiatives include the successful new Gun Court, which has already resulted in more than 200 guns off the streets; the new five-year mandatory minimum law for drug-and-gun crimes; the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership, which saves the lives of young people and must be expanded to protect more young lives; and the Juvenile Justice Curriculum, which is being taught in all Philadelphia middle schools to teach students about the juvenile law system.

“Almost 100 people have been killed this year—almost all by illegal firearms,” said Abraham. “The “Blueprint for A Safer Philadelphia” is designed to address violent crime and has tremendous community support from groups such as Men United for A Better Philadelphia, Mantua Against Drugs, Mothers-in-Charge, Mothers United Through Tragedy, and the Lost Dreams Coalition.”

“Public safety is my office’s number one priority,” said Abraham. The “Blueprint” is already proving its worth, and I urge Council to allocate sufficient resources so that we may continue to be on the cutting edge of crime-fighting.”

