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NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 8, 2006
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**Federal Court Grants District Attorney Lynne Abraham's Motion to Intervene in
Prison Overcrowding Suit**

"The Public Has the Right to Live in a Safe Community"

Federal District Court Judge R. Barclay Surrick today granted the motion of District Attorney Lynne Abraham to intervene in a federal lawsuit challenging alleged overcrowding in Philadelphia jails. Lawyers representing the prisoners in the case are seeking a federal court order that may result in the release of prisoners who have been charged with crimes, which District Attorney Lynne Abraham opposes.

A similar federal lawsuit in the 1990's resulted in the premature release of thousands of prisoners, who went on to commit thousands of additional crimes, including more than 70 murders. In reaction to that case, Congress passed a law to limit such releases, and to allow prosecutors to have a role in such lawsuits in order to represent the public's interest in reducing crime.

The next hearing in the case is listed for Monday September 18, 2006 before Judge Surrick in U.S. District Court, 601 Market St., 10:30a.m., Courtroom 8-A.

"We are gratified that Judge Surrick's prompt and thorough ruling has upheld my right to participate in this important case," said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. "The public has the right to live in a safe community."