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NEWS ALERT

Date: December 20, 2007
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District Attorney Lynne Abraham Announces the Winners of "The 5th Annual Urban Genesis Community Spirit Awards," Honoring Ordinary Philadelphians For Doing Extraordinary Things.

What: Press Conference
When: Friday, December 21, 2007.
Time: 11 AM
Where: Mezzanine, Press Room, Three South Penn Square

December 21, 2007—District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham will announce the winners of the 5th Annual "Urban Genesis Community Spirit Awards" – honoring ordinary Philadelphians for doing extraordinary things.

Ms. Arlene Freeman is the recipient of *The Wrice- Campbell Award for Neighborhood Safety*. Ms. Freeman has spent countless hours confronting her neighborhood problems. She worked in the Philadelphia School District for more than twenty years as a teacher's aid, where she was loved and respected by students, parents, and staff. Ms. Freeman has marched with her community, fellow volunteers, and Dr. Wrice across the vast communities of Philadelphia, peacefully calling for action against violence and crime. She acquired skills as an anti-drug/anti-violence strategist that she applied in serving not only Dr. Herman Wrice for twenty years, but also in serving schools and her own neighborhood. For her unselfish commitment to children and their families, she has received state and national recognition, and best represents the legacy of Herman Wrice.

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Ms. Veronica Norris is the recipient of *The James Mills Award for Positive Youth Development*. When Ms. Norris is not working a full-time job and lending support to her family, she serves as a volunteer mentor to the Girl's Track Youth Leadership and Development Council. As a volunteer mentor of the NAACP ACT-SO (Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics), she is a chaperone for young people who compete locally and nationally in twenty-five different academic categories. As a community activist, she volunteers as a block captain for the 5300 Block of North Camac Street, to make the neighborhood safe and the environment clean. Ms. Norris' mission is to develop the full potential of individuals of all ages throughout the City of Philadelphia. She strives to make resources and services available to enable citizens to grow personally and within their communities.

Miss Leticia J. Walston is the recipient of *The Officer Tony Johnson Award for Educational Advancement*. Miss Walston, a 2007 graduate of Mastery Charter High School, has demonstrated commitment to leadership, community service, and to helping meet the needs of others. Miss Walston has served various community projects with the Freedom Theater School, Supreme Gospel Entertainment, and The Baptist Worship Center, while maintaining a 3.4 GPA. She was the lead role in the anti-violence youth production of *Killadelphia*, and was in the community play, *The Light Has Come*. Miss Walston has developed leadership skills as the captain of the school's drill team and as the president of the community based, *Talented Angels Praise Dancers*. She inspires many by her devotion to helping those with special needs, especially her Autistic younger brother. Miss Walston is an outstanding, motivated young woman who has learned to balance her life with faith and commitment. With this award, she will be able to advance her education at Ursinus College, where her intended major is theater with a concentration in business.

The Community Spirit Awards are made possible through Urban Genesis Inc., 501 (c)3, the non-profit charitable foundation that the District Attorney founded in 1992.

Urban Genesis, Inc., will recognize these three Philadelphians for their outstanding contributions in the above categories by awarding a \$250.00 check to the St. Vincent's Church in Germantown on behalf of Ms. Arlene Freeman, and a \$250.00 check to Unison TV Kids Inc., on behalf of Ms. Veronica Norris. Ms. Freeman and Ms. Norris will individually receive a check for \$250.00. Miss Leticia J. Walston will be awarded a \$500.00 scholarship to be sent to Ursinus College.

The winners of these awards were selected from approximately fifty nominees. The surviving family members, for whom the awards were named, selected the winners based on the merit of their essays.