



LYNNE ABRAHAM
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Three South Penn Square
Corner of Juniper & South Penn
Square
Philadelphia, Pa 19107**

NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 31, 2007
Contact: Cathie Abookire / 215-686-8711
Director of Communications

**D.A. Lynne Abraham and Chief Inspector Tony DiLacqua Forewarn New Years
Eve 'Revelers' That People Who Shoot Guns on New Years Eve Will Be Arrested
and Prosecuted to the Fullest Extent of the Law**

Joe Jaskolka, 20, says, "The proof is in my X-Ray"

WHAT: NEWS CONFERENCE

WHEN: 11AM MONDAY DECEMBER 31, 2007

WHERE: DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
THREE SOUTH PENN SQUARE
CORNER OF JUNIPER AND SOUTH PENN SQUARE
MEZZANINE LEVEL

PARTICIPANTS: District Attorney Lynne Abraham

Chief Inspector Anthony DiLacqua

Joe Jaskolka, 20, who was shot in the head in 1998 by an unknown
'reveler' and his parents Greg and Brenda Jaskolka

Ruth Birchett, who captured on tape the sounds of the 1998 New
Years Eve gunfire on Norris Street

Diane Edbril, CeaseFire PA

December 31, 2007---District Attorney Lynne Abraham, the Philadelphia Police
Department and Joe Jaskolka, remind people that shooting guns on New Years Eve is not
only dangerous, it is illegal.

“People who shoot guns off into the air to ‘celebrate’ New Years Eve will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, said District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Chief Inspector Anthony DiLacqua. “There will be zero tolerance for people shooting firearms into the air in so-called celebration of New Years Eve.”

On December 31, 1998, a so-called ‘celebratory’ bullet struck then 11-year-old Joe Jaskolka in the head as he walked along Fernon Street near Second Street in South Philadelphia. The bullet remains lodged in Joe’s head, and Joe wants people to see his X-Ray.

“This X-Ray shows what happened to me,” said Joe Jaskolka. “I don’t want this to happen to anybody else.”

Joe uses a wheelchair now and has endured more than 20 surgeries, including several surgeries to realign his vision, and he was in the hospital for several days last week. Yet, despite all of Joe’s challenges, he carries a 4.0 grade point average as a sophomore at Delaware Technical and Community college. His goal is to become a doctor to specialize in sports medicine.

“Joe never gives up,” said Joe’s parents, Greg and Brenda.

Through December 22, 2007, 1668 people were shot. That is an average of 33 people per week. For the year ending December 31, 2006, 2004 people were shot.

Additionally, since 1998, Philadelphia Police have arrested more than 150 people for New Years Eve weapons violations. Despite an aggressive investigation by Philadelphia Police, the shooter in Joe’s case has not yet been found, and the case remains open.

“We do not look at this practice as ‘people just having a good time,’ ” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Chief Inspector Anthony DiLacqua. “This is criminal behavior that puts innocent people like Joe in the line of fire.”

“The protection of our citizens and children remains our number one priority,” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham, “and we will prosecute those arrested to the fullest extent of the law.”