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NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney Lynne Abraham Thanks and Lauds Randall Watson, 15

TEEN FINDS FULLY LOADED GUN ON BUS, TURNS IT INTO POLICE

Gun Owner Arrested and Charged

March 20, 2008----District Attorney Lynne Abraham, the Philadelphia Police Department and the Philadelphia Fire Department today thanked and praised Randall Watson, 15, for his actions as a good citizen and an Honorary Crimefighter in the city of Philadelphia.

On February 29, 2008, while traveling home from school on the #64 Septa bus, Randall found a navy blue backpack on the seat in the rear of the bus. Randall looked inside the backpack and found a fully loaded 9mm Beretta handgun inside the backpack.

When Randall got off the bus to go home, he turned the backpack and the weapon into the Fire Station located at 44th St. and Belmont Ave., where he waited until police came to recover the weapon.

“I am very proud of Randall,” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. “His actions as a responsible young man and a good citizen directly resulted in an arrest and the confiscation of a dangerous weapon. There is no telling what might have happened had the backpack and gun fallen into the wrong hands. I am delighted to certify Randall as an Honorary Crimefighter.”

As a result of Randall’s actions, the Gun Violence Task Force conducted an investigation. The Task Force arrested Robert Freeman, DOB 09-13-1974, on Tuesday March 18, 2008. Freeman is charged with the following:

VUFA—No License---F-3 (maximum penalty 3-1/2 to 7 years)
VUFA---Carrying a Weapon on a Public Street---M-1 (maximum
penalty 2-1/2 to 5 years)

Recklessly Endangering Another Person---M-2 (maximum penalty 1 to 2 years)

Assistant District Attorney Pat Link will prosecute the case.

Randall is 15 years old and in the 9th grade at Parkway West. He is the eldest of six children, all of whom are being raised by his father, Charles Watson. Randall has four younger brothers and one younger sister.

He hopes to have a career in law enforcement.

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