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NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 8, 2008
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GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE CHARGES TWENTY FIVE WITH ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING 44 HANDGUNS

*Gun Violence Task Force Has Seized a Total of 253 Firearms, Arrested 146 People
and Opened 552 Investigations Since December 2006*

April 8, 2008----District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Attorney General Tom Corbett and Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey today announced that the Gun Violence Task Force has arrested or obtained arrest warrants for 25 more individuals and charged them with the illegal transfer/possession of 44 handguns. Since it began in December 2006, the Task Force has opened 552 investigations involving the illegal transfer of firearms, made 146 arrests, and seized 253 firearms. In addition, the Task Force has assisted Philadelphia police in solving numerous shootings, burglaries, and at least one homicide.

In December 2006, with funding from the State Legislature and spearheaded by State Sen. Vincent Fumo, District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Attorney General Tom Corbett launched the Gun Violence Task Force to attack the proliferation of illegal guns on city streets. Composed of veteran investigators and seasoned prosecutors, and working in close coordination with the Philadelphia Police Department, the Task Force began operations in Southwest Philadelphia and has since expanded into all six of the city's police Divisions.

Under Pennsylvania law, a convicted felon is prohibited from purchasing a firearm. Licensed gun dealers require proof of identity and perform a record check prior to making a sale. Unable to legally purchase firearms from a licensed dealer, felons use false identification or hire "Straws", citizens with no criminal record, to purchase guns for them. The "Straw", after buying the gun and delivering it to the felon, frequently reports the gun as stolen in an attempt to avoid criminal responsibility when the gun is

later used in a crime. Felons also illegally purchase weapons “on the street” - most often guns stolen in burglaries.

It was announced today that the following have been arrested:

Joshua Shannon, 25, of the 1500 block of Comly Street, **Lateicha Stevenson**, 28, of the 1700 block of Juniata Street, and **Tanya Rivera**, 28, of the 2500 block of Knights Road. It is alleged that Rivera attempted to straw purchase a handgun for Shannon who is an adjudicated felon. Rivera was unable to make the purchase as she had no valid Pennsylvania identification. Rivera then recruited Stevenson to purchase a .40 cal handgun and ammunition for Shannon. Task Force agents recovered the purchased handgun and ammunition from Shannon pursuant to a search warrant. All three are charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 3rd degree. Shannon is also charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6106, Firearm not to be Carried Without A License, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 6108, Carrying a Firearm on a Public Street, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree.

Lewis Ford, 24, and **Daaiyaa Powell**, 26, of the 1900 block of Ashley Street. Ford was the subject of a Dauphin County arrest warrant obtained by the Attorney General’s Office and charging six counts of Forgery and Identity Theft. Task Force agents assisted in the service of this warrant at Ford’s Ashley Street address. It is alleged that when agents entered the couple’s residence, they found a .45 cal submachine gun in the bedroom of Ford’s 8 year old son and a loaded .45 cal handgun in the bedroom of Ford’s 3 year old daughter. A loaded 9mm handgun was also found under the mattress in the bedroom where the 3 year old was sleeping. 11.4 grams of Cocaine, 100 oxycodone pills, and a large amount of cash were also recovered. Ford, a convicted felon, is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree. Both Ford and Powell are charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 4304, Endangering the Welfare of Children, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 2705, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 907, Possession of an Instrument of Crime, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 908, Possession of a Prohibited Offensive Weapon, a misdemeanor of the first degree; 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree; 35 Pa.C.S. 780-113(a)(30), Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, a felony; and 35 PA.C.S. 780-113 (a)(16), Knowing and Intentional Possession of a Controlled Substance, a misdemeanor.

Elizabeth Govens aka Elizabeth Williams, aka Doris Anne Jeans, 60, of the 4200 block of N. 15th Street. It is alleged that Govens, prohibited from possessing a firearm because of a previous manslaughter conviction, used false identification to purchase 2 handguns. Govens is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Robert Freeman, 33, of the 5300 block of N. Kershaw Street. It is alleged that Freeman legally purchased a 9mm handgun on 2/25/08. On 2/29/08, the fully loaded handgun was found in a back pack on a Septa bus by a 15 year old student on the way home from

school. Freeman is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6106, Firearm not to be Carried Without A License, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6108, Carrying a Firearm on a Public Street, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 2705, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree.

Tia Jordan, 32, of the 6600 block of McCallum Street. It is alleged that Jordan straw purchased 2 handguns for her husband, Deion Jordan. Jordan is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Arthur Henry, 29, of the 2100 block of Beechwood Street. It is alleged that Henry, a convicted felon, illegally “street” purchased a .44 caliber handgun which had been recently stolen in a burglary. Henry is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6106, Firearm not to be Carried Without a License, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 6108, Carrying a Firearm on a Public Street, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 3925, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Derrick Patterson, 18, of the 800 block of East Willard Street. It is alleged that Patterson illegally gave a .45 caliber handgun to a juvenile who used it shortly thereafter in a shooting in the 800 block of East Hilton Street. Patterson is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6110-1, Possession of Firearm by Minor, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6115, Illegal Transfer of a Firearm, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Charles E. Brown, 36, of the 2100 block of Beechwood Street. It is alleged that Brown, previously convicted of manslaughter, illegally “street” purchased two handguns which had been recently stolen in a burglary. Brown is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6106, Firearm not to be Carried Without A License, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6108, Carrying a Firearm on a Public Street, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 3925, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Terrine Dubois, 29, of the 1200 block of W. Windrim Avenue. It is alleged that Dubois straw purchased 2 handguns for Chris Lorrick, a convicted drug dealer. One of the handguns was recovered by Philadelphia police responding to a radio call of a shooting in the 3600 block of Calumet street. Upon execution of a search warrant, the police recovered 3 other handguns, as well as a large quantity of drugs and cash. Dubois is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Mercedes Jones, 23, of the 3300 block of Chichester Avenue, Boothwyn, PA. It is alleged that Jones straw purchased a 9mm handgun for Quinton Turner, a convicted

felon, who was arrested by Philadelphia police and charged with aggravated assault and related offenses when he recently used the handgun to pistol whip a woman. Jones is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree ; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Kent Chang, 28, of the 1600 block of W. 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York. It is alleged that Chang falsified purchase forms in order to purchase four 9mm handguns. Chang is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree ; and 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Scott Thompson, 29, of the 7200 block of Charles Street. Task Force Special Agents, while serving two parole violations warrants on Thompson, recovered one shotgun and one handgun, both of which are alleged to have been “street” purchased illegally by Thompson, a convicted felon. Thompson is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Tyree Manning, 25, of the 7000 block of Elmwood Street. It is alleged that Manning straw purchased a 9mm handgun and illegally transferred two other handguns, a .45 caliber and a .40 caliber. The .40 caliber was subsequently recovered by Philadelphia Police from a vehicle driven by Isiah Williams. Manning is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6115, Illegal Transfer of a Firearm, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Tevis Thompson, 19, of the 900 block of Juniper Street, Quakertown, Pa. It is alleged that Thompson stole a .38 caliber handgun from an auto and later sold it on the street in Philadelphia. The handgun was recovered along with two others by Philadelphia Police from Derrick Duburow, arrested in an automobile stolen in Churchville, PA. Thompson is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 3921, Theft, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 3925, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 6110-1, Possession of Firearm by Minor, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree.

Troy McGee, 24, of the 6000 block of Chestnut Street and **Marcus Nabried**, 24, of the 300 block of E. Meehan Avenue. It is alleged that McGee and Nabried conspired to falsely report the theft of an AK47 and a 9mm handgun belonging to McGee. Both are charged with 18 PA.C.S. 4101, Forgery, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4104, Tampering with Records or Information, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4906, False Reports to Law Enforcement, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree.

Marwan Robinson, 26, of the 4700 block of Upland Street. It is alleged that on 1/14/08 Robinson falsely reported a burglary in which he claimed 10 handguns and other items were stolen. One of the reportedly stolen handguns had been recovered by Philadelphia

Police from Eugene Thompson, a convicted felon, on 1/5/08. Another had been recovered by Philadelphia Police from a Michael Smith on 9/12/05. Investigation revealed that not only was the reported burglary false, but that Robinson had used false information in purchasing 4 handguns. Robinson is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4906, False Reports to Police; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Ryant Grisson aka Bryant Gippison, 37, of the 1800 block of 68th Avenue. It is alleged that Grisson, a convicted drug dealer, falsified purchase forms in order to purchase two handguns, one 9mm and one .40 caliber. He was arrested carrying the .40 caliber. Grisson straw purchased the 9mm for his cousin; and that handgun was later recovered by police during a homicide investigation. Grisson is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Arrest Warrants have been issued for the following:

Collins Eubanks, 37, of the 3900 block of “D “ Street. It is alleged that Eubanks, a convicted felon, hired a straw purchaser to purchase two 9 mm handguns at a gun show. Eubanks was later arrested by Philadelphia Police after a high speed chase in possession of one of the handguns. Eubanks is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Michael Welles, 35, of the 2000 block of Pickwick Street. It is alleged that Welles, a convicted felon, hired a straw purchaser to buy 2 handguns for him at a gun show, instructing her how to falsify the paperwork. Task Force Agents at the show were able to prevent the sale. Welles is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Willie Womick, 51, of the 1300 block of Paxon Street. It is alleged that Womick straw purchased a .357 caliber handgun for a drug dealer. Task Force Special Agents, acting quickly, were able to retrieve the weapon. Womick is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Carlos Marshall aka Tyrone Miller, 35, of the unit block of Waterview Drive, Sicklerville, NJ. It is alleged that Marshall, prohibited from purchasing a firearm because of his prior criminal record, used false identification to purchase two .40 caliber handguns at a gun show. Marshall is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 4101, Forgery, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a misdemeanor

of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Felonies of the 2nd degree are punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine. Felonies of the 3rd degree are punishable by up to 7 years imprisonment and a \$15,000 fine. Misdemeanors of the 1st degree are punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Conviction of more than one count of 18 PA.C.S.A 6111 is a felony of the 2nd degree and carries a **mandatory** sentence of five to 10 years imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine.