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## **MAYOR NUTTER, POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCE CHANGE IN PRE-ACADEMY RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

*Philadelphia, February 11, 2008* - Today, Mayor Michael A. Nutter and the Philadelphia Police Department announced a change in the one year pre-Academy residency requirement, lifting a major barrier to recruiting qualified applicants from across the region and nation.

“Philadelphia already has an excellent police force and the Civil Service Commission’s move to waive the pre-Academy residency requirement ensures that all new recruits will be of the highest caliber available,” said Mayor Michael Nutter. “If someone wants to come to Philadelphia and make a career of protecting our city, I don’t want to stand in his or her way.”

The Civil Service Commission recently granted the Police Department a residency and driver’s license waiver. Prior to this change, applicants who resided outside the city could take the Police Academy entrance exam but they would have to establish residency in the City of Philadelphia for one year before they could enter the Police Academy. Applicants were also required to hold a Pennsylvania driver’s license. These criteria acted as an effective deterrent to non-Philadelphia residents wishing to join the force.

Now with the waiver in place, non-Philadelphia residents are given six months to establish residency after their graduation from the Academy. In total, this gives recruits slightly less than a year to move into the city once starting the Academy.

During orientation, recruits will now be required to sign a letter of commitment, pledging to establish Philadelphia residency and acquire a Pennsylvania driver’s license within the six month period following probation. Failure to fulfill either of these commitments will result in termination from the force.