

# NEWS



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release:** January 21, 2003

### City Council Session Opens with New Security Rules

**PHILADELPHIA--** The Department of Public Property and Philadelphia Police Department will support new council rules tightening security provisions for council chambers. The new rules will be in place for the opening session of City Council on January 22, 2004. All visitors to council meetings will be required to pass through metal detectors on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and at the entrances to the gallery on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

“We are complying with a request from the Council President, in the wake of the tragic incident that led to the death of a New York City councilman, to install metal detection equipment as additional security for council. The new security rules are established by council; we are providing equipment and staff support for the metal detector operation in an effort to make the chambers more secure,” said managing Director Phil Goldsmith.

X-ray and metal detection equipment will be in place for all regularly scheduled meetings of council as well as special committee meetings. The four metal detection stations at Council entrances will be manned by two security guards per station plus a supervisor. The Department of Public Property will manage the personnel assigned to the detectors.

Enforcement of any infractions uncovered by the security scanning operation will be supported by the Philadelphia Police Department. Security will require that all cell phones and beepers are in silent operating mode.

Special arrangements will be made for individuals who have medical necessities or physical challenges and for baby strollers.

City Council and administrative staff exemptions will be made to the detection procedure. Witnesses for City Council hearings will be issued identification badges that will permit them priority access to Chambers at Council request.

City employees who have business with Council will be permitted to move to the front of the security screening line upon presentation of a valid city ID.

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