

Crime Fighting Strategy Executive Summary

The focus of this Crime Fighting Strategy is a return to the basics of policing. There is nothing fancy about this strategy. It combines what works from traditional crime fighting and the best of community policing. It is a bold, aggressive plan for a long-term, sustainable approach to reducing violent crime in Philadelphia. Crime fighting must be relentless and unwavering.

This strategy will enable the Philadelphia Police Department to provide effective police service to all of our neighborhoods. It is reflected in our Mission:

The mission of the Philadelphia Police Department is to fight crime and the fear of crime, including terrorism, by working with our partners to enforce the laws, apprehend offenders, prevent crime from occurring, and improve the quality of life for all Philadelphians.

Highlights

- We will put two-hundred (200) more officers on the street in Uniform Patrol by May 1. This will be done through redeployment, new officers, and the temporary use of overtime. With these additional forces, we will increase the number of vehicle, foot and bike patrols.
- We will focus our intensified efforts on the nine most violent districts, establishing Targeted Enforcement Zones within those districts.
- We will immediately implement city wide aggressive, proven tactics, including, but not limited to; lawful stop and frisk tactics, increased VUFA (violation of uniform firearm act) and aggravated assault warrant service, and increased lost and stolen gun investigations. We will immediately begin training officers in order to implement these tactics.
- We will expand the existing surveillance camera program from twenty-six to 250 cameras by December 31, 2008.
- We will substantially enhance and prioritize warrant service citywide down to the sector patrol officer to reduce the number of outstanding warrants and the number of offenders on the street.
- We will work with existing town watches and encourage neighborhoods to establish town watch organizations. To begin this process, by spring 2008, the Police Department will host a citywide conference with all town watch organizations to share information and ideas.

- We will reorganize the Department to better support our mission no later than March 31, 2008
- We will review and adjust staffing levels to ensure they are consistent with crime trends and patterns.

Performance Goals

This Crime Fighting Strategy is intended to achieve Mayor Nutter's goal of reducing homicides by thirty to fifty percent over the next three to five years. It is time for this department to set bold and aggressive goals in reducing crime and apply the necessary resources to achieve those goals. Consistent with those goals, by the end of calendar year 2008 we will:

- Reduce homicides by twenty-five percent (25%)
- Decrease the number of shooting victims by twenty percent (20%)
- Reduce Part I violent crimes by twenty percent (20%)
- Increase the number of guns taken off the street by five percent (5%)
- Increase the homicide clearance rate to sixty-five percent (65%)
- Increase the clearance rate for all other violent crimes by five percent (5%)
- Significantly reduce the backlog of 6,000 pieces of ballistic evidence waiting testing.
- Significantly reduce the backlog of outstanding warrants.

A Call For Action

This strategy is more than a plan for the Philadelphia Police Department. Making Philadelphia a safer city requires all of our City departments and agencies, residents, businesses, churches, schools, and community-based organizations to work in collaboration with the Philadelphia Police Department. This strategy offers some examples of how this work can be done. In addition, the Philadelphia Police Department will work with groups dedicated to reducing violence and making a better future for Philadelphians to craft additional strategies towards this goal. Join us in this important work.

As your Police Commissioner and more importantly as a police officer, I look forward to working with the men and women of the great Philadelphia Police Department. For those of you who are thinking about retiring, I ask that you give your city another year or two of service and help us become an even better police department. For those of you considering applying to join the force, I ask you to join us and be part of the most dramatic crime reduction in the history of Philadelphia.

I am ready to get down to the business of policing. Come join me.

