

# NEWS



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release:** May 2, 2002

### CITY OF PHILADELPHIA'S SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES TO PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN OPERATION "SAFE STREETS"

PHILADELPHIA, PA -- Today, in the shadow of a burned-out row home on the 1200 block of Huntingdon Street in North Philadelphia, one of the worst open air drug market sites in the city, Mayor John Street announced that the unprecedented Operation "Safe Streets" initiative was not only about driving drug dealers off city streets, but also about offering help to those who have fallen victim to substance abuse.

"Operation 'Safe Streets' is equal parts stern law enforcement and human compassion," said Mayor Street. "We want to provide desperately needed counseling, intervention and rehabilitation services to anyone in our city who has been preyed upon by these drug dealers and is experiencing the pain of addiction. We have mobilized our entire social services delivery system and put them on stand-by to assist people who want and need our help. Anybody who wants to get into treatment will get into treatment. It's not enough to shove the drug pushers off our streets and out of our city....we must also help people get straight, thereby cutting off demand for illegal narcotics. We are optimistic that this integrated approach between police and social services will improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods."

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and Prisons are all engaged in a coordinated effort to provide intervention and rehabilitation services. Workers from the various agencies will soon begin canvassing the neighborhoods known to be hot spots for street level drug sale activity,, in order to distribute written materials instructing people how and where to get help for their addictions.

There are two numbers that people may call for help. The first is (888) 545-2600, a 24 hour, seven day a week substance abuse hotline that is operated by Behavioral Health staff. The second number is (215) 683-4DHS, operated by the Department of human services weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This number is for those people who wish to enter a drug rehab program, but have the need for support and care taking for their children.

As Operation “Safe Streets” unfolds, street level interaction between social workers and substance abusers will likely intensify in hopes of convincing the greatest number of people possible to enter rehab.

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