

# NEWS



# NEWS

## MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

---

John F. Street, Mayor  
Joe Grace, Acting Director of Communications  
[www.phila.gov](http://www.phila.gov)

City Hall - Room 216  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: 215-686-6210  
Fax: 215-686-2170

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 31, 2006

### **Mayor John F. Street and Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson Meet with Leaders from across the Country to Develop Strategies to Tackle the National Spike in Violence**

**Washington D.C.** – On Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, Mayor John F. Street and Commissioner Johnson joined mayors and police chiefs from across the country at a U.S Conference of Mayors crime and violence meeting to discuss the recent spike in violent crime in America's cities and strategies to stem this trend.

“The problems associated with too many guns and too much violence are not specific to Philadelphia and are national in scope,” said Mayor Street. “This Conference will allow leaders from across the country to develop a national strategy to combat violent crime and at the same time send a strong message to the Federal Government that its deep budgetary cuts are costing lives in cities across the country.”

On Wednesday Commissioner Johnson attended The Police Executive Research Forum (P.E.R.F) which assembled a group of major city police chiefs, clergy and government official from around the country to explore anti-violence initiatives during a day-long summit in Washington D.C. Community leaders and police officials shared their experiences in an effort to develop local and national strategies to stem the tide of violence taking place in cities across the country.

Using the information and ideas from the P.E.R.F summit, the U.S Conference of Mayor's will work to develop a policy and political strategy regarding violence and crime in America. Mayor Street and the USCM leadership understand that the rise in violence is not acute to any one city and that a national strategy must be adopted to prevent and reduce this nationwide increase in violent crime. The USCM will take their message to the media and political leaders – especially those seeking the presidency in 2008.

Over the last year, as the Federal Government has slashed funding for programs that prevent and reduce violence, cities across the country have witnessed an increase in homicide rates. In fact, Baltimore, Birmingham, Detroit, Kansas City, Richmond, St. Louis and Washington each had higher homicide rate than Philadelphia last year.

###