



City of Philadelphia *Operation Safer Streets* *2006 Year End Review*

During the course of the Street Administration, Philadelphians have enjoyed a decrease in crime and an increase in quality of life. In fact, serious crime has declined approximately 16 percent during the past seven years thanks to a host of neighborhood revitalization and public safety efforts. Through the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative and Operation Safe Streets, Mayor John F. Street helped citizens reclaim and restore abandoned property and take back their neighborhoods by closing more than 300 open-air drug markets.

Unfortunately Philadelphia has not been immune to the national increase in violent crime. Although serious crime is down, a recent increase in the level of gun violence in isolated areas of the City threatens this progress.

In response the City of Philadelphia launched **Operation Safer Streets**, a comprehensive, multi-agency, data-driven, citywide crime prevention and reduction strategy with short- and long-term tactics that are designed to suppress violence. Operation Safer Streets is a four-pronged approach to preventing and reducing violent crime:

- I. Smarter, targeted policing to flood “hot spots” with police and increased coordination among law enforcement agencies
- II. Violence prevention efforts through increased social services and intensive city services.
- III. Increased community engagement and faith based involvement to prevent violence and share information
- IV. Gun reduction efforts to get guns off City streets

Core to this effort is a weekly meeting convened by the Mayor that gathers the City Managing Director, Police Commissioner, Secretary of External Affairs, Secretary of Education, Director of Social Services, Director of Behavioral Health, Health Commissioner, Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner, Director of Faith-Based Initiative and other City officials responsible for social and city services. Together they review the prior week’s violence data and make strategic adjustments in the plan whenever and wherever necessary.

In every measurable category, Philadelphia’s crime fighting activity has increased.

- Police are making more arrests and confiscating more drugs and guns.
- Delivery of social services to youth through best practice violence reduction programs has increased.
- Faith-based institutions are promoting peace from pulpits and in communities.
- Hundreds of citizens joined Town Watch.
- Thousands of citizens have lobbied the legislature for stricter gun laws.

I. Targeted Policing and Law Enforcement Coordination

The Philadelphia Police Department developed a policing strategy as part of the City's multi-pronged approach to stem the tide of gun violence and homicides. The crux of the police strategy involves deploying additional police in areas of the City most prone to violence. Those areas were determined in three ways: data was used to provide maps to pinpoint "hot spots;" intelligence and investigative material were shared about each of these areas; and Patrol Commanders discussed their sense of the daily threat levels in each zone. The plan involves increased targeted patrols, quality of life enforcement, coordination with other law enforcement agencies, and the removal of illegal weapons from the street.

2006 Arrests				
	2004	2005	2006	% Change 05 to 06
Violent Crime Arrests	9,266	9,323	10,245	+9.9%
Arrests Property Crime	5,626	5,575	5,812	+4.3%
VUFA* Arrests	1,712	1,620	1,726	+6.5%
Quality of Life Crime Arrests	10,241	10,949	14,392	+31.5%
Total Arrests	69,805	68,708	73,862	+7.5%
*Violation of Uniform Firearms Act				

Targeted Policing. Police officers are charged with deterring crime in the targeted areas through increased presence and enforcement that is focused on deterring violent individuals. Detective response teams respond immediately to incidents of gun violence.

- The Police Commissioner restructured work schedules to deploy more officers in areas where and when violent crimes were more likely to occur.
- The Police Department deployed an elite Strategic Intervention Tactical Enforcement (S.I.T.E.) Unit of experienced officers working at nights and weekends to respond to violent crime.
- The City is hiring 200 new Police officers as part of an FY07 budget agreement with City Council and as a result of a new Commonwealth of Pennsylvania grant program.

2006 Gun & Drug Confiscations				
	2004	2005	2006	% Change 05 to 06
Gun Confiscations	5,032	5,028	5,386	+7%
Drug Confiscations*	\$89,409,390	\$88,310,341	\$136,349,929	+54.5%
*Only Narcotics Bureau Only				

Warrant Service and Bench Warrants. The Police Department's Major Crimes Warrant Unit works closely with the United States Marshals Office, the FBI, and the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania to serve outstanding warrants for violent criminals. The First Judicial Court and the Police Department collectively serve outstanding bench warrants for known violent criminals.

<p>Warrant Numbers 2,465 Warrant Arrests 7,687 Attempts to Serve Warrants</p>
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Major Crimes took control of the City's "Ten Most Wanted" Program in February 2006. Since that time, there has been a significantly increased effort to serve warrants and to apprehend wanted felons.

Major Crimes took the innovative step of partnering with Comcast CN8 to help with the warrant strategy. Comcast subscribers can now click on the "Ten Most Wanted" list from the "On Demand" portion of their cable TV service to see whom the Police Department is hunting down. The public is encouraged to call in tips to 215-683-WANT.

Investigative Coordination. The Police Department, through coordination with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the District Attorney, the U.S. Attorney the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating "straw" gun purchases, coordinating criminal investigations and sharing intelligence data. The City partners with the Justice Department, District Attorney and the ATF on programs such as Project Ceasefire and Safe Neighborhoods, which prosecute a select number of gun cases on the federal level. An extremely important component of these programs is that criminals in these cases are removed immediately off the street and receive sentences on average of five to 10 years.

Probation and Parole "Ride-Alongs." Police officers ride with probation and parole officers during their visits in "hot spots." The strategy of utilizing police teams to ride with probation and parole is a concept already utilized as part of the YVRP strategy. This strategy sends a strong message to those who are under supervision that further violations will be immediately recognized and not tolerated.

Video Surveillance Cameras. On May 16, 2006, the voters of Philadelphia approved an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, paving the way for the installation of video surveillance cameras to deter and fight crime. On Friday, July 28, 2006, the City unveiled the first phase of the camera surveillance program placing cameras in areas based on crime statistics. To date, 18 video

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Surveillance Camera Locations</u></p> <p>7th Street and Girard Avenue - 2 cameras Barratt Middle School - 4 cameras Broad Street and Girard Avenue - 2 cameras Broad Street and Susquehanna Avenue - 2 cameras Germantown Avenue and Venango Street - 1 camera Germantown and Lehigh Avenues - 1 camera Broad Street and Erie Avenue - 1 camera Broad and Butler Street - 1 camera Broad Street and Erie Avenue - 1 camera Wayne Avenue and Logan Street - 1 camera Wayne Avenue and Seymour Street - 1 camera Chew and Cheltenham Avenues - 1 camera</p>

surveillance cameras have been installed citywide. There are 10 Pan, Tilt, Zoom (PTZs) cameras monitored by continuously by Police and 8 Portable Overt Digital Surveillance System (PODSS) monitored by Police by laptop from patrol cars. The City is evaluating wireless technologies to enable broader deployment.

Gun Recovery Reward Information Program (G.R.R.I.P.). The Gun Recovery Reward Information Program (G.R.R.I.P.) is an aggressive program intended to curb violence and reduce the proliferation of firearms in the City. Citizens are encouraged to call the 24-hour/seven-day-a-week G.R.R.I. P. command center at 215-683-GUNS (215-683-4867) to report persons that are in possession of an illegal firearm or people trafficking in the sales of weapons. Hotline callers are anonymous and do not have to give their names to Police. They are given a special confidential number to identify them if a reward is to be paid. Awards range from \$250 to \$1000 and are made within 72 hours after the person calls back and confirmation is made of the arrest and confiscation. The Citizens Crime Commission distributes award money. There were 105 arrests made and 38 guns confiscated as a result of 232 calls to the G.R.R.I.P. hotline in 2006.

Gun Recovery Reward Information Program G.R.R.I.P.			
	2004	2005	2006
Calls	218	200	232
Arrests	256	168	105
Guns Confiscated	94	87	38
Narcotics	\$313,295	\$112,108	\$433,480

II. Focused City and Social Services

Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP). The Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP) is a multi-agency, anti-violence initiative tightly focused on keeping targeted youth alive until age 25. YVRP operates in police districts that have been identified as the most violent, in terms of youth homicides and gunshot victims.

- June. 1999: 24th Police District, North Central Philadelphia
- 2000: 25th Police District, Lower North Central Philadelphia
- August 2002: 12th Police District, Southwest Philadelphia
- November 2005: 19th Police District, West Philadelphia
- May 2006: 22nd, Police District, Upper North Central Philadelphia

Concentrating on youth ages 14 to 24 who are identified as having the greatest risk of either killing or being killed; YVRP weaves together an array of service-providers into a singularly focused unit. Police, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, and Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence (PAAN) staff work cooperatively, and are supported by a variety of agencies, including the District Attorney's Office, the School District, and the Department of Human Services. YVRP operations are coordinated by the Managing Director's Office. Virtually all of the youth in YVRP are on active adult or juvenile probation.

YVRP
YVRP targets youth most likely to "kill or be killed."

Only 1.3% (22) of over 1,700 youth served have been victims of or accused of homicide.

Adolescent Violence Reduction Partnership (AVRP). Based on the proven success of YVRP, the Adolescent Violence Reduction Partnership (AVRP), a multi-agency anti-violence initiative that targets youth ages 10 to 15, was developed. AVRP was launched

AVRP Parental Feedback
(Names have been changed)

"Tanya's" 12-year-old son "Tyson" is in the program. She likes that her son is learning how to deal with fighting. He was arrested for getting into a fistfight (no weapon involved). She feels that the one on one contact "Tyson" gets from his youth worker is helpful because the youth worker acts as a positive male role model. "Tanya" said "Tyson" is very excited to spend time with his youth worker. When asked about the center-based program, "Tanya" said it was beneficial because her son is getting the counseling he needs in order to avoid physical fights. Her son likes the program and attends regularly – he has only missed due to football practice. She also said that the center-based program was good about changing some things around for them to make it easier for her son to get to the programming he needs.

March 31, 2006 in the 12th and 25th Police Districts and expanded citywide on July 1, 2006. Youth are being identified utilizing primary indicators including but not limited to: exposure to domestic violence, victim or perpetrator of violence, arrest prior to age 13, sibling of YVRP youth, school suspension, attendance and expulsion. AVRP has two components: Youth Worker/mentor and the center based activities. These include case management, therapy, academic support,

family counseling, community services, and Mural Arts program, in addition to two

violence reduction curricula, “Get Real About Violence” and “Aggression Replacement Training.”

Otherwise unsupervised and engaged in negative activities, AVRP youth are instead actively engaged in positive pro-social activities. After-school and weekend hours (the times where most crimes and violence occurs in this age group) are spent in high quality programming where youth learn an array of skills to address conflict and challenges in their lives and learn strategies for long-term success. In other words, the intensity of AVRP and the diversity of its components ensure these youth are positively engaged during the times where crime is most likely to occur. They receive at least 20 hours per week of guidance and intensive supervision by a worker with similar life experiences from the neighborhoods in which they live; and they receive an additional 15 hours per week of prevention and intervention services delivered by high-quality community based providers with an extensive history of proven outcomes. While it is too soon to measure the success of the program, anecdotal evidence suggests it is working.

Curfew Center. When data reviewed at the Mayor’s weekly Safer Streets meeting indicated a unique problem in South Philadelphia—disproportionate numbers of youth are shooting and homicide victims and perpetrators—the City responded by convening a series of meetings with community leaders and elected officials. The City and community leadership concluded that many the same youth who are lacking parental supervision are involved in criminal activities or are victims of criminal activity. The community is partnering with the City in piloting a curfew program, which is designed to provide structured activity and supervision to youth whose families do not respond to curfew violations.

South Philadelphia Curfew Center 7/29/06-12/17/06						
Day of Week	Total Curfew Violations	Taken to Curfew Center	Number Known to DHS	Taken to DHS	Taken Home	Behavioral Health Linkages
Thursdays	173	38	13	8	135	4
Fridays	139	59	24	6	80	9
Saturdays	191	93	31	2	98	2
Sundays	128	26	10	5	102	4
Total	631	216	78	21	415	19

All of the families of the 631 youth picked up for Curfew Violations have been referred to the Department of Human Services Community Based Prevention Services Division for preventive services. These services include, but are not limited to offering the families: counseling, parenting training, anti-violence programming, mentoring support, after-school programs, case management, tutoring, mental health and behavioral health.

Residents report a noticeable decrease in youth being outside late at night and their community is much quieter. Patrol officers have commented that their authority has been restored with youth. There has been an increase in community cohesion as evidenced in the community being empowered to impact youth violence, network amongst each other. Over 70 residents have volunteered at the Curfew Center, since its inception. The Curfew Center has had volunteers in each hour that it has operated since it opened.

In addition, the number of minors involved in violent crime in the area has dramatically decreased since the inception of the curfew center program.

Juvenile Shooting Victims*			
	1/1/06- 7/29/06	7/30/06- 12/31/06	% Change**
1 st District	15	8	-46%
17 th District	18	3	-83%
*Shooting victims include homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, suicide, and self-inflicted. **The time periods are not equal. The curfew center has only been in operation for 4 months.			

Jobs. Overall economic indicators reflect an increasingly lower-income population in Philadelphia. The link between economic indicators—particularly unemployment—and violent crime is well documented. The City sponsored a job fair in South Philadelphia that attracted over 800 job applicants and 40 employers.

Prevention. Historically, the only time a family could obtain assistance from the child welfare system was after their situation had already resulted in abuse, neglect or delinquency. Recognizing that it was often too late and far too much damage was already done, this Administration created a new division within the child welfare system, called the Division of Community Based Prevention Services. The premise is simple: provide children and families with supports and services before their situations rise to the level of court-mandated services. It is better for families and more cost-effective. In its first year, the budget for this division was approximately \$5 million. The budget is now more than \$90 million. The funded programs are reaching thousands of children and families through a multitude of programs, including after-school and truancy programs, community stakeholder groups, delinquency prevention, parent education and support and other youth-focused programs.

Providing this continuum of prevention and early intervention services for children and families, especially those with behavioral health needs is paramount to the City's violence reduction and prevention effort, however sustained funding continues to be a challenge. These services are most effective when they are provided in the community, as opposed to residential settings, as they provide an opportunity to empower families and strengthen communities, so every effort to identify and sustain funding for these programs is crucial.

Truancy. At a press conference in October 2006, the Mayor announced the commitment of \$3 million to implement a citywide Truancy Expansion Initiative at the School District of Philadelphia. The new initiative includes increasing the number of School District Parent Truancy Officers from 100 to 500. The effort correlates with Mayor Street's curfew initiatives to ensure that young people, when not attending school or extracurricular activities, are abiding by truancy and curfew laws.

On November 30, 2006, the City hosted Truancy Awareness Day. The School District of Philadelphia and Family Court provided the names of more than 6,000 families whose children were truant in the academic school year 2005/2006. Each family was sent a letter notifying them to attend the event. At the event, parents and students were reminded of the importance of daily school attendance and the legal implications for truancy and granted amnesty if they signed an attendance pledge.

Consistent with Mayor Street's goal to discourage truancy violations, families of truants will be required to attend a four-hour seminar focused on a parenting and instruction for both the guardian and the student. In addition to conflict management and parent negotiation skills, resources will be made available to those families that might require extra support from agencies such as the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Philadelphia Safe and Sound. The City will continue to focus attention on children who are not at home or in school when they are supposed to be to ensure their safety and success.

The Regional Truancy Courts provide families with a variety of social services that include but are not limited to asset-based family/community case management, home and school visiting, community service and academic assistance. In FY05, 3,756 families were provided services and in FY06 3,580 families were provided services by the regional courts. In FY05 95 families and in FY06 44 children were referred to DHS for more intensive services. Prior to the development and implementation of the regional court system a large percentage of these children would have been placed for a minimum of six months.

City Services. The City is aggressively attacking blight, clearing away abandoned cars, cleaning lots and sealing vacant properties, in the "hot spot" areas of the City, because of the perceived and actual correlation between quality of life and safety in neighborhoods.

III. Community Engagement and Faith-Based Involvement

Recognizing that law enforcement cannot reduce crime alone, community engagement and the involvement of the faith-based community are integral to crime reduction and prevention. The City is partnering with community leaders, clergy, citizens, elected officials, Town Watch members, and block captains to host community meetings and to encourage citizens to throughout the City to address public safety. The City needs citizens to report crimes, share intelligence and participate in Town Watch groups. In addition, citizens must join City efforts to identify youth in need of services and provide productive activities for youth.

Community Engagement

Community Fairs. The City sponsored 8 community fairs in “hot spots” since March 2006. The fairs offered residents an opportunity to be assessed and referred for substance abuse treatment, mental and physical health services, and childcare and after school services. The fairs also served to unite members of the community by providing a forum for socializing with other families in their community.

Safe Corners. On Friday, June 30, 2006, citizens “took back” over 40 corners identified by community members and police as problem corners where quality of life crimes occur. Town Watch members, police and City officials patrolled the corners, planned mini-block parties and served as a deterrent on corners throughout the City.

Mayor Brings Operation Safer Streets Into Communities

More focused policing, more engaged communities, better coordinated delivery of city services, and reduced availability of handguns are keys to plan

Philadelphia, PA – Speaking to large crowds throughout the City, Mayor John F. Street on Saturday [February 4, 2006] unveiled the City’s new comprehensive, citywide violence prevention and reduction plan – Operation Safer Streets.

Flanked by Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson and an array of city officials, community activists and clergy, the Mayor appeared at six meetings in neighborhoods across the City, delivering the same message at each stop to overflowing, engaged crowds.

In addition to his Frankford meeting, Mayor Street unveiled Operation Safer Streets at Triumph Baptist Church in North Philadelphia, Ascension Catholic Church in Kensington, Cornerstone Baptist in Strawberry Mansion, Bibleway Baptist in West Philadelphia, and St. Charles Borromeo in South Philadelphia.

The Mayor was joined at St. Charles Borromeo by Cardinal Justin Rigali, leader of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Cardinal Rigali echoed the Mayor’s passionate messages about violence prevention. “Jesus taught us to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves,” the Cardinal told an audience of more than 300 people at the South Philadelphia church.

Recruit Town Watch

Members. Town Watch staff trained 57 new Town Watch groups and recruited 917 new Town Watch members.

Recruit and Support Block Captains.

The City is actively recruiting new block captains and providing additional support to existing block captains. 313 new block captains have been recruited. The City provided block captains with a process to report services needs and access City services.

Organize Community Members in “Hot Spots.”

Town Watch and Mayor’s Office of Community Services



(MOCS) staff facilitated or participated in 410 meetings in the “hot spots.” Working with Philadelphia Anti-Violence Anti-Drug Network (PAAN), Men United for a Better Philadelphia, Mothers in Charge and various other community based organizations (CBO), Town Watch and MOCS staff facilitated or an additional 223 meetings in “hot spots.”

Facilitate Information Sharing. Town Watch hotline received 497 calls from citizens reporting information about criminal activity and requesting city services in crime-ridden areas.

Expand Awareness of Operation Safer Streets. Town Watch staff members disseminate information about Operation Safer Streets at regularly scheduled Town Watch, Police District Advisory Council and Neighborhood Action Center meetings.

Operation Safer Streets Community Engagement Numbers (As of 12/14/06)	
New Town Watch Members	917
New Town Watch Groups.....	57
New Block Captains	313
Community Fairs.....	8
Community Meetings (City).....	410
Community Meetings (CBO).....	223

Faith-Based Involvement

One City One Church Praise and Prayer Rally. Local Christian denominations and churches collaborated to host a rally promoting community peace and safety on July 19, 2006. Several thousand people attended and received information about area anti-violence programs and social services for families and communities.

Street Games. On, Saturday, July 22, 2006, Street Games, a competition of sports and contest traditionally played in neighborhoods, was held at the North East High School Super Site. Olympian Jon Drummond's Achievement Foundation sponsored Street Games and provided prizes.

Salt World. Throughout July and August, the National Christian Street Theater performed anti-violence dramas in six “hot spots.” The performances were designed to promote appropriate responses to violence and street crime. Each performance was followed by evangelistic outreach and dialogue among neighborhood residents and youth eschewing violence and promoting appropriate conflict resolution.

Weekend of Prayer. Working with an interfaith coalition of faith leaders, the City organized a citywide weekend of prayer for peace in the City convened by faith centers and congregations September 22 to 24, 2006. These efforts promoted civility and mutual respect and the responsible and appropriate management of personal and inter-group differences. Clergy prayed for families victimized by violence and those entrusted with the responsibility of family preservation and public safety.



Prayer Vigil. On Tuesday, September 26, 2006, there was an Ecumenical Prayer Vigil held in conjunction with “United We Stand for Safer Streets,” the anti-handgun legislative rally in the State Capital. The Prayer Vigil united hundred of faith leaders representing thousands of believers from all religious traditions throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and was broadcast internationally. The theme of the Prayer Vigil was “Sacred Commitments toward Community Safety.”

Faith Community Promotes Community Safety. The City developed, published and circulated a tip sheet for communities of faith interested in developing high-impact, low-cost, replicable, sustainable and effective community safety strategies and practices.

Public Information Campaign

Operation Safer Streets Brochure. A brochure with critical information about how to join Town Watch, provide tips and get assistance for troubled youth was mailed to households throughout the City.

Mayoral Televised Address. On July 27, 2006, Mayor John F. Street presented a live television address to the City on gun violence and the City’s plans to prevent it and also unveiled a public service campaign to increase community involvement in Town Watch in a citywide campaign to keep Philadelphia safe.

“**This is Our House.**” With the production assistance of a local television affiliate WPVI-TV6, the City launched a public information campaign designed to empower citizens and encourage them to join Town Watch and report tips to the Police. The message of the campaign is that “Philadelphia is ‘our house.’ We will protect it and respect it and require the same of others.” Local and national celebrities, elected officials and a diverse group of citizens appear in the public service announcement. As part of Operation Safer Streets, the City’s comprehensive long-term commitment to more focused policing, engaged communities, intensive social and City services, along with a commitment to stronger gun laws, the City asked all local electronic media outlets to air the public service announcement during their regular programming.

Philadelphia is our home and it’s one of the great cities in America.

To sustain Philadelphia’s place among the great cities in the world, every citizen must commit to a higher level of civility. We must lead by example. Responsible citizen participation will lead to success.

We all love our city. Together we will prevail in this fight against gun violence. **This is our house.** It must be respected. It will be protected; we will ensure the safety of every neighborhood, every family and every child.

Excerpts from Mayor John F. Street’s July 27, 2006 Televised Address

Telephone Outreach. The City uses a predictive dialer telephone system to inform citizens of Operation Safer Streets meetings.



IV. Gun Reduction Strategy

The City of Philadelphia is seeking to reduce the flow of illegal guns into and within the City as one element of the Safer Streets strategy. The City's gun reduction strategy respects the rights of responsible gun owners, while trying to provide a reasonable and balanced approach to ownership transfers. The majority of homicides in Philadelphia are committed with handguns. Reducing the level of homicides in Philadelphia requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach that works to change the very culture of violence, but it must be recognized that critical facets of this approach are the appropriate legal means to restrict the sale and possession of illegal firearms, and to consistently punish those who traffic in illegal handguns thereby contributing to the rate of violent crimes.

State Lobbying. Addressing the flow of illegal guns requires legislative assistance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including statutory change and financial support for programmatic initiatives. The City supports state legislation that requires responsible gun ownership, limits the number of guns and increases penalties for gun crimes:

- **Responsible Gun Ownership:** Legislation that requires gun owners to maintain guns in a secure lock box and immediately report lost, stolen or missing firearms to the Police.
- **Limit the Number of Guns in Philadelphia:** Legislation that limits the purchase of guns to one-handgun-a-month, and legislation that cracks down on straw purchaser activity.
- **Increase Penalties for Crimes Committed with Guns:** Legislation that makes possession of any illegal firearm a felony and moves more gun violations to state and federal courts.

United We Stand for Safer Streets. On September 26, 2006, the City of Philadelphia organized a massive rally, prayer vigil, press conference and lobbying day in Harrisburg to unite against the increasing wave of gun violence that is troubling our Nation. Mayors from around Pennsylvania and the country joined Mayor Street for a press conference and meetings with legislative leaders. Over 1,000 citizens from Philadelphia traveled to Harrisburg on city-chartered buses to lobby members of the General Assembly.

Pennsylvania Public Safety Poll. A September 2006 statewide poll showed that voters

Support for Tougher Gun Safety Laws		
<i>Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws?</i>		
	Total Support	Total Oppose
All voters	65%	30%
Philadelphia media market	78%	18%
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton media market	62%	31%
Pittsburgh media market	59%	37%
The "T"	51%	43%

From "Pennsylvania Statewide Poll Results – Crime and Gun Violence are Growing Problems and Voters Support a Comprehensive Solution"

support a balanced approach to reducing crime and gun violence in Pennsylvania that combines tough enforcement, new gun safety laws, youth violence prevention programs and community engagement. The poll found that two in three

Pennsylvania voters (67%) believe that gun violence is a statewide problem, with only a small minority (26%) perceiving it as a “big city” problem. A majority of voters in every region of the state believe crime and gun violence have increased in the past year and that a combination of efforts are needed to stem this tide. Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly recognize that a comprehensive approach is needed to halt violence throughout the state. The poll clearly demonstrates their support for an approach that emphasizes youth violence reduction programs, after-school programs, and other prevention activities, imposes tougher gun safety laws, expands police presence in high crime areas, and increases penalties for criminals who use guns.

Federal Lobbying. The City lobbied against federal legislation that restricts access to ATF data. At the same time the City was lobbying for stricter gun laws on the state level, the federal government was moving in the opposite direction. Congress considered legislation that would restrict access to and use of gun trace data held by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The Mayor successfully lobbied the federal government to keep destructive gun laws from passing.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns. On April 25, 2006, Mayor Street joined New York Mayor Bloomberg, Boston Mayor Menino and 12 other mayors for a historic illegal gun summit in New York City. The bi-partisan group of mayors from cities across the United States pledged to work together to restrict the sale of illegal guns. The group has expanded to

<p>Mayors Against Illegal Guns Statement of Principles</p> <p>Whereas: 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns; and</p> <p>Whereas: As Mayors, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns;</p> <p>Now, therefore, we resolve to work together to find innovative new ways to advance the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punish - to the maximum extent of the law - criminals who possess, use, and traffic in illegal guns. • Target and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers. • Oppose all federal efforts to restrict cities' right to access, use, and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to combat illegal gun trafficking. • Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns. • Support all local state and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices. • Invite other cities to join us in this new national effort. <p style="text-align: right;">Signed by Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, April 25, 2006</p>	<p>over 80 mayors, in part due to Mayor Street's work convening Pennsylvania mayors in Harrisburg on September 26, 2006. City officials presented Philadelphia violence reduction strategies at the November Boston regional summit of Mayors Against Illegal Guns.</p>
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