

U.S. Department of Justice

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*****PRESS CONFERENCE ADVISORY FOR MONDAY, JULY 28, 2003*****

**U.S. ATTORNEY PATRICK MEEHAN AND PHILADELPHIA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY LYNNE ABRAHAM TO ANNOUNCE
KICK-OFF OF *PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS* ADVERTISING
CAMPAIGN IN PHILADELPHIA AREA**

**Campaign Against Gun Crime Will Include :30 TV Commercial Featuring Meehan,
Abraham, And Johnny Cochran, Along With Print Ads On Septa Buses**

PHILADELPHIA – *Project Safe Neighborhoods* is a Department of Justice initiative designed to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. Since September 2001 through last month, the United States Attorney’s Office, local district attorney’s offices, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal, state, and local agencies, have worked together to indict 542 defendants who have received an average prison sentence of almost nine years.

“The bottom line is this program is helping improve the quality of life in our communities,” said Meehan. “These violent offenders have used the gun as their tool of intimidation. But because of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, we’re now able to use that same gun to remove those violent criminals from our streets.”

Monday, July 28 at 10:00 a.m., U.S. Attorney Meehan, Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham, and Philadelphia Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson will introduce the new *Project Safe Neighborhoods* broadcast and print advertising campaign in the Philadelphia area. **The press conference will be held on the 8th Floor of the U.S. Attorney’s Office at 615 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. The commercial will be played and copies of the video will be available along with a sample of the print ad.**

The campaign will deliver a simple message to convicted felons: if you have prior arrests, get caught with a gun and your case is taken federally, you will likely face years in a federal prison. The television commercial featuring Meehan, Abraham, and well-known defense attorney Johnny Cochran, will begin running on cable in Philadelphia in August. Also beginning next month, *Project Safe Neighborhoods* posters will be displayed on Septa buses throughout the city.

Funding for the campaign is provided by a Justice Department Community Outreach Partnership Grant. The U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has partnered with *CrimeAlert* Berks County, which receives the grant money designated to fund the *Project Safe Neighborhoods* outreach effort.