

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

*Richard Manieri  
Direct Dial: (215) 861-8525  
Facsimile: (215) 861- 8509  
E-mail Address: richard.manieri@usdoj.gov*

*615 Chestnut Street  
Suite 1250  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476  
(215) 861-8200*

**\*\*\*LANCASTER COUNTY PRESS CONFERENCE ADVISORY FOR  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2003\*\*\***

**U.S. ATTORNEY PATRICK MEEHAN TO PREVIEW NEW  
PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS VIDEO AT LANCASTER  
COUNTY PRISON**

**Documentary Features “Scared Straight” Presentation Of Federal Gun Laws To  
County Prison Inmates**

PHILADELPHIA – Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Lancaster County Prison, 625 East King Street in Lancaster, U.S. Attorney Meehan, Lancaster County District Attorney Donald Totaro and Warden Vincent Guarini will introduce the new *Project Safe Neighborhoods* video. The video, shot within the prison walls, serves as a warning to inmates facing release about the consequences of violating federal gun laws. **BETA COPIES OF THE VIDEO, ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES IN LENGTH, WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

*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 599 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.”

The video will deliver a simple message to convicted felons: if you have prior convictions, get caught with a gun and your case is taken federally, you will likely face years in a federal prison.

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.