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SETH WILLIAMS WILL CREATE “CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER” TO IMPROVE SAFETY

With Limited Resources, Next D.A. Must Focus on What Works

PHILADELPHIA: Today during a candidates forum at LaSalle College, Seth Williams detailed his plan to create a new “Chief Performance Officer” will be responsible for critically evaluating programs and their performance in order to correctly make staffing and resource decisions at a time of difficult finances. The policy pronouncement is the second of Seth’s campaign and a key part of his 10-point plan to fundamentally improve Philadelphia’s criminal justice system.

“When finances are strained, as they are now, it is more important than ever to ensure that programs are working and that the District Attorney’s Office is focused on not just prosecuting criminals, but in reducing crime,” said Seth today at the forum. “By creating a ‘Chief Performance Officer’, we will be able to objectively decide whether programs are working and can focus our resources on what works, not merely continuing ‘how things have always been done.’”

Much as similar data-drive processes COMP-STAT and CITI-STAT are helping improve police and government performance, the District Attorney and CPO will hold weekly public reviews, or “D.A.-STAT,” in which unit chiefs will discuss the crime problems they are facing and how well their team is dealing with those challenges. Importantly, rather than just review programs that currently exist, the CPO will be able to step back and start from scratch, asking about the evidence available to show whether and how well a strategy is working and whether other strategies would work far better than present approaches.

“Seth Williams’ Plan to Improve Safety by Creating a Chief Performance Officer” is the second of ten major steps that he will take to re-shape Philadelphia prosecution for crime prevention. Each of these steps will be outlined in a policy paper and then subjected to deliberations with a wide range of community participation. These papers will serve as the blueprint for a “New Day with a New D.A.”

Seth Williams, the City’s former Inspector General, has 10 years of experience as a top prosecutor and supervisor in Philadelphia’s District Attorney’s Office. For more information, please visit his campaign website at www.votesethwilliams.com.

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