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SETH WILLIAMS ADVOCATES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PROSECUTION BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

Vows to Institute Community-Based Prosecution if Elected

PHILADELPHIA: Seth Williams testified before Philadelphia City Council today, advocating for community-based courts before Council's Committee on Public Safety. Community-based courts and prosecution constitute a key component of Williams' campaign for District Attorney.

"Since early 2005, I have strenuously advocated that our City adopt a system of community-based prosecution," Williams remarked. "Community-based prosecution has proven to be effective in cities across the country, not only for crime fighting, but also for crime prevention."

Community-based prosecution is a grassroots approach to criminal justice that involves citizens, law enforcement and other government agencies in problem-solving efforts to address safety, fairness and quality of life. Under a system of community-based prosecution, prosecutors are assigned to neighborhoods rather than courtrooms.

"A day-to-day, firsthand knowledge of the community and its residents will help prosecutors to distinguish a hardened neighborhood predator from a kid in need of early intervention," Williams testified. "The knowledge and experience of a community-based prosecutor working in a community-based court can determine when the interest of justice and safety is best served through a lengthy prison sentence or an alternative to incarceration."

Williams, who once served as Chief of the District Attorney's Repeat Offenders Unit, vowed that if elected, he would ensure that the District Attorney's Office takes full advantage of community-based courts and prosecution and reminded the committee that such programs can be implemented without adding personnel or raising the budget.

Earlier this month, Seth received the endorsement of 11 state Representatives and Senators at an event in City Hall, including State Senator Shirley M. Kitchen, State Senator Anthony H. Williams, State Representative Mark B. Cohen, State Representative Angel Cruz, State Representative Frank L. Oliver, State Representative Ronald G. Waters, State Representative Rosita C. Youngblood, State Representative

Cherelle L. Parker, State Representative Tony J. Payton, Jr., State Representative Kenyatta Johnson and State Representative Vanessa Brown.

In December, Seth received the backing of more than a dozen former Assistant District Attorneys, each of whom expressed their confidence that he is the only candidate for District Attorney who can partner with the police and the court system to fundamentally change how our city fights crime and protects the public.

“As District Attorney, I vow to make this program a priority,” Seth said. “Together, we can set high standards, demand accountability and develop a system of justice for the 21st century.”

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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