

**seth**  
**williams**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

1500 Sansom Street, 4th Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19102 | 1-888-Seth4DA

February 26, 2009

Last night, another young man was shot. He's alive, but seriously injured. The shooting, which happened just a few blocks from where I grew up and two blocks from the rec center where my father worked and where I played basketball for the Cobbs Creek Comets, is believed to have been retaliation for an earlier dispute. Neither the shooter nor the victim is over 18, which means the gun used was illegally obtained.

Unfortunately, crime and the fear of crime are not issues isolated to one neighborhood or one group of people. A new poll by the Pew Charitable Trusts' Philadelphia Research Initiative found that crime is the number one issue facing Philadelphia. The poll also found:

- When asked in an open-ended question what they like least about living in Philadelphia, 45 percent of participants said crime or violence. 8 percent said dirty streets and trash.
- Of those who said they would move out of the city if they had the chance, 36 percent listed crime as their number one reason, followed by 10 percent who would prefer a suburban lifestyle and 8 percent who cited concern about their children's schools.
- When asked whether they feel safe outside in their neighborhoods at night, 37 percent answered "no," 24 percent said they feel "a little unsafe," and 13 percent said they feel "not safe at all."

This election, as much as some may try to make it about personalities, is really about much more: it's about our city, our safety and our future.

In the coming weeks, I will continue to detail my vision for a safer, stronger Philadelphia where the police, the community, the courts and the District Attorney's Office work together to fix our broken criminal justice system.

Only by working together can we do this – and it's something we must do.

Sincerely,

Seth Williams