



City of Coatesville  
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NR # 015

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 31, 2008**

Neither the Coatesville City Council nor City administration was included in any of the thought process that preceded Chester County District Attorney Joe Carroll's press release regarding his plans for Coatesville. So it is difficult to make a fully informed response or clearly understand the specific events that precipitated Mr. Carroll's singular focus on the political affairs of Coatesville. I am not aware of any instance in crime prevention or crime investigation in the past three years wherein any element of the City of Coatesville's government, particularly the Police Department, was not fully and professionally cooperative with the Office of the District Attorney.

For those interested in the facts, Coatesville's police department is not undermanned. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, "On average, there were about 23 sworn state and local law enforcement officers per a 10,000 person population (an additional eight employees per 10,000 person population were civilian, non-sworn personnel)." Coatesville has 32 sworn law enforcement officers, 48% greater than the national average.

Overall crime in the City of Coatesville has decreased by 20% compared to last year. Therefore it should not go unnoticed that the patrol force has increased the number of firearms seized while reducing the number of aggravated assaults with a gun. Due to the proactive policing of City of Coatesville Police Officers, there are now fewer cars stolen, fewer burglaries and fewer assaults and street fights despite the recent increase in several violent crime categories. During the current year we hired 10 new officers and re-hired one veteran officer. We substantially restructured the Coatesville Police Department by implementing new investigative procedures, refocusing strategies and investigations to increase effectiveness of manpower deployment, improving existing case management

procedures, increasing foot patrols, meeting with local business owners and by deploying special robbery/narcotics details in "hot-spot" areas. We are extremely confident that these initiatives will curtail criminal activities. We already have evidence that the new procedures have been effective in apprehending perpetrators. The department has significantly increased the number of persons arrested for selling drugs compared to last year and has accomplished these arrests with fewer veteran officers. Several community forums will take place in 2009 through the City's Weed and Seed Program. The City of Coatesville encourages voluntary participation from its residents through our various commissions, boards and committees and whenever possible at the Coatesville Community Center. The city has always worked in conjunction with the District Attorney's office to improve the quality of life for the citizens of our city.

The city administration has no comment on a Republican District Attorney's plans to use the power of his office and taxpayer dollars to change the complexion of fairly elected City Council persons in a primarily Democratic city.

Harry Walker  
Coatesville City Manager

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