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House of Representatives
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Stephen E. Barrar

DATE: August 31, 2006

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – Enhanced Sentencing Guidelines for Crimes Committed with a Firearm.

Earlier this year, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that Philadelphia suffered one of the worst increases in homicides among major cities in 2005. Among the nation's largest cities, only Houston, Texas saw a bigger increase. This was while many other cities, such as New York, saw decreases.

In fact, the FBI reported that among cities with more than one million residents, violent crime – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault – was down by 0.4 percent in 2005. To the contrary, in Philadelphia violent crime was up 3.36 percent.

Given these facts, I plan to introduce legislation that will establish enhanced sentencing guidelines for crimes committed with a firearm.

This legislation will:

- Mandate a 10 year minimum prison term for any crime committed with a firearm;
- Mandate a 20 year minimum prison term for any crime where a firearm is discharged;
- Mandate a minimum prison term of 25 years to life in prison if someone is injured or killed by a firearm during the commission of a crime;
- Mandate a minimum prison term of 3 years for the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; and
- Mandate that the minimum term of imprisonment be served consecutively to any other term of imprisonment imposed.

If you would care to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Lu Ann Fahndrich at 783-3038 or by email at lfahndri@pahousegop.com