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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Members of the House of Representatives  
**FROM:** Representative Jewell Williams  
**DATE:** January 31, 2006  
**RE:** Co-sponsorship of Legislation

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would establish the Municipal Firearms Enforcement Commission for the City of Philadelphia.

Sadly, murders in Philadelphia reached 380 in 2005, setting a record high. In fact, for every murder committed with a handgun in Philadelphia, there are six gun shootings. In response to the ever-escalating surge of gun violence in Philadelphia, I feel that it is time for the General Assembly to step up the fight against gun violence by enacting legislation that will truly protect our citizens.

To that end, I am introducing legislation that would allow Philadelphia to govern itself in reference to gun laws through the Municipal Firearms Enforcement Commission. Specifically, the commission would adopt ordinances on behalf of the city concerning the lawful ownership, possession, transfer, and transportation of firearms and ammunition. In addition, the commission would be comprised of 11 members, all of whom would be residents of Philadelphia, and nearly every commission member would be appointed by leaders of the General Assembly and the governor to serve on the board.

As you certainly know, the General Assembly has gotten involved in a number of issues surrounding Philadelphia, including our schools and parking authority, in the past. With that in mind, since the General Assembly has repeatedly failed to enact legislation to significantly reduce gun violence in the city, I feel it is time to allow legislators who have a vested interest in this urban area to take the lead in developing these laws. With that said, it is my hope that you will join me in sponsoring this legislation that will take us one step closer to reducing gun violence in the streets of Philadelphia.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this important proposal, please contact Ashley Roach at 772-2004 or via e-mail at [aroach@pahouse.net](mailto:aroach@pahouse.net).