

*Crime -  
Gun Crimes*

**President Clinton: Deterring and Reducing Gun Crime  
March 20, 1999**

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will direct the Secretary of the Treasury and Attorney General to develop a national strategy to increase gun prosecutions and further reduce gun violence. The strategy will also call for: expanded efforts to identify illegal gun markets and gun "hot spots"; improved coordination with state and local law enforcement; closer supervision of gun criminals on parole or probation; and innovative, community-based efforts. The President will also release a new Justice Department report highlighting 60 promising strategies that have helped reduce gun violence throughout the country.

**Prosecuting More Gun Criminals**

To continue to reduce gun crime and violence, President Clinton will direct the Secretary of the Treasury and Attorney General -- working with U.S. Attorneys, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and all of state and local law enforcement -- to develop a comprehensive national strategy to investigate and prosecute more gun criminals.

**Project Exile.** The President will call for the expansion of programs like Project Exile in Richmond, VA. Under Project Exile, the Richmond U.S. Attorney -- working closely with other state, local and federal law enforcement authorities -- targeted gun-carrying felons and other armed criminals for immediate federal prosecution and stiff mandatory sentences in federal prison. As of last November, Project Exile had achieved the following results: 372 persons were indicted for federal gun violations; 440 guns were seized; 300 persons were arrested or held in state custody; 222 arrestees (or about 75 percent) were held without bond; 247 persons were convicted; and 196 persons were sentenced to an average of 55 months imprisonment. And gun-related homicides have dropped by more than 40 percent last year.

**"An illegal gun will get you 5 years in federal prison."** As part of Project Exile, law enforcement authorities also reached out to the community and launched an extensive media campaign to get a simple message across to Richmond's gun criminals: "An illegal gun will get you 5 years in federal prison." This message was advertised on 15 billboards throughout the city, a fully painted city bus (that changes routes daily and covers the entire city each week), and a series of radio and television promotional spots. Criminals in Richmond routinely testify that they did not carry a firearm because of their knowledge of the stiff federal penalties.

**Boston Gun Project.** The Boston Gun Project, is another example of enhance firearms prosecutions. After tracing all guns recovered at crime scenes to

their source, the Boston Police Department and ATF work together to disrupt illegal gun markets by investigating illegal gun trafficking and referring cases for swift prosecution by both federal and state prosecutors. As a result of these and other youth violence prevention efforts, youth homicides in Boston have dropped 75 percent since 1995.

### **Building on the Success of Local Strategies**

Although crimes committed with firearms are down by 27 percent nationally, gun-related crime and violence remain serious problems. To help all communities benefit from the many successful strategies already in place throughout the country, the President's directive also calls for the Treasury and Justice Departments -- in developing their national strategy -- to specifically consider the follow elements:

- comprehensive crime gun tracing, analysis and mapping; increased use of ballistics identification technology; and coordinated use of crime gun information to identify illegal gun markets, gun "hot spots" and illegal gun traffickers;
- coordinated law enforcement and regulatory enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with all applicable laws by federally-licensed dealers and prospective gun sellers and purchasers;
- targeted deterrence of violent offenders through improved coordination of with probation and parole officials supervising such offenders and swift and certain punishment of for those found to have violated the conditions of their parole or probation; and
- problem-solving analysis and innovative strategies to work closely with the community members to identify gun criminals, remove weapons in the hands of juveniles, search for and seize crime guns, and increase the public's knowledge of their community's gun-related crime and violence problem.

The President will release a new Justice Department report -- *Promising Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence*. Designed as a "toolbox" for communities, the report details 60 successful strategies to reduce gun violence that were reviewed and recommended by more than 40 national experts. The report will be distributed to communities throughout the country next week.

### **New Resources for Firearms Enforcement**

The President's FY 2000 budget includes new resources to help implement the national strategy called for today. In particular, his budget includes:

**\$5 million** for more than 40 additional federal prosecutors to conduct intensive firearms prosecution projects targeting violent felons who possess guns, armed drug traffickers, and illegal gun markets;

**\$23.8 million** for more than 120 new ATF agents to support firearms investigations, arrest violent criminals and gun traffickers, and crack down on illegal gun sales; and

**\$1.3 billion** for a 21st Century Policing Initiative to help communities hire more police and prosecutors, and to allow them to target gun crime and other public safety priorities.

March 20, 1999

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**SUBJECT:                    Detering and Reducing Illegal Gun Crime**

Since the start of our Administration, we have developed and implemented a number of effective national strategies to reduce crime: we have helped over 11,000 communities hire and redeploy more than 92,000 local law enforcement officers; we have prevented more than a quarter of a million illegal handgun sales through Brady background checks; and we have developed a coordinated attack on the illegal sources of crime guns. Additionally, through the leadership and dedicated efforts of state and local police and prosecutors, Mayors, U.S. Attorneys, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and other community leaders, dozens of smart, tough, crime-fighting strategies have been put in place throughout the country.

During this period, the nation's crime rate has dropped by more than 20 percent, and crime committed with guns has dropped 27 percent. In certain communities, where federal, state, and local law enforcement have been able to work together with other community leaders, violent crime rates have been reduced dramatically. In Boston, Massachusetts, for example, when law enforcement and community leaders worked together to reduce violence by youth gangs, they were able to reduce the number of homicides among youth by 70 percent in just two years. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, through unique public and private partnerships, effective law enforcement and prevention efforts have reduced homicides by 30 percent, and summer homicides by 75 percent. And in Richmond, Virginia, effective, coordinated law enforcement has brought the homicide rate down dramatically.

But the number of people being killed with firearms remains unacceptably high: more than 14,000 people were murdered with guns in our nation in 1997. We must redouble our efforts to deter and further reduce gun crime -- and work to make every neighborhood and community free of serious gun crime.

I therefore direct you to develop an integrated firearms violence reduction strategy that draws on the proven measures and other innovative approaches being demonstrated by communities throughout the country. Because we know that gun violence issues in each community differ, and that no single program or strategy will be right for every community, your strategy should be based on close consultation with the U.S. Attorneys and ATF Division Directors/Special Agents in Charge, as well as state and local law enforcement, officials, and other leaders.

You should consider the special needs of local communities and strike an appropriate balance between federal and state law enforcement. I ask that your strategy specifically consider the following elements:

- (1) Intensive investigation and prosecution of significant firearms violations, including illegal possession, use, and trafficking of guns;
- (2) Comprehensive crime gun tracing, analysis and mapping, expanded use of ballistics identification technology, and coordinated use of crime gun information to identify illegal gun markets, gun "hot spots," and illegal gun traffickers;
- (3) Coordinated law and regulatory enforcement efforts to ensure strict compliance with all applicable laws by federally-licensed gun dealers and prospective gun purchasers;
- (4) Targeted deterrence of violent offenders through improved coordination with probation and parole officials; and
- (5) Innovative strategies to work more closely with the community to search for and seize more crime guns, to better identify gun criminals, to remove weapons illegally in the hands of juveniles, and to increase the public's knowledge of their community's gun-related crime and violence problem.

Finally, as you develop this strategy, I ask that you make recommendations on how best to allocate federal resources to support the goals of the strategy.

Crime - Gun Crimes



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: Sarah Latham ↙ 202/456-1907  
TO: 10/23/98 ↘  
COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: DAVID YARKIN (215) 686-6212  
PRESS SECRETARY (215) 686-2170 FAX

PAGES: 6 (including this cover sheet) (1 is legal size)

NOTES: NRA articles for your conversation this  
morning w/ the Mayor

Bruce -  
Mayor Rendell  
met w/ Rahm  
on this NRA proposal  
for Phila. "test-city" - John  
wants your opinion, he's now  
spoken w/ the Mayor  
as well. Mayor's pushing for a Wt / Rendell / Heston  
event -  
Sara 67184

CITY HALL, ROOM 216 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

More than just a fiesta in Philadelphia.  
To Daze out to champagne

Inside  
How the FBI goes undercover  
to fight child pornography on the

Using tobacco

# unge minds

## Latinos in the Philadelphia Area

Estimated county population figures in 1996.

**Pa. total: 292,050**

Berks  
22,651

Bucks  
12,269

Chester  
11,666

Delaware  
7,644

Lancaster  
21,296

Montgomery  
10,975

Philadelphia  
100,040

**N.J. total: 920,085**

Atlantic  
21,373

Cumberland  
22,521

Burlington  
17,268

Camden  
46,357

Gloucester  
5,718

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"We don't want it to be a two- or three-day conference and everybody forgets it," Emanuel Ortiz said.

One month before the conference, the gathering already has had an impact, Angel Ortiz noted: Next year, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials will hold its annual conference in Philadelphia.

# Rendell's invitation to the NRA

**GUNS** from A1

"We would like to do that in Philadelphia," Heston said then.

Now, Rendell has taken the idea and run with it.

In a Monday letter to Heston, the mayor summarized the NRA position as calling for "a model program in which increased federal resources would be made available to allow the Justice Department to prosecute every federal gun law violation in one major city. I agree that such an initiative would produce dramatic results."

Even as the Democratic Rendell was forging a link with the conservative NRA, he continued his drive against gun violence on another front — pressuring gunmakers to take steps to curb sales to criminals. In the campaign so far:

• Rendell said Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley has agreed to join Rendell in a task force talking with key gun firms about firearms violence. Daley, like Rendell, has instructed lawyers to prepare a potential lawsuit against the gun trade. Daley joins Rendell and the mayors of St. Louis and Gary, Ind., among other officials, in the task force. A Daley spokesman said yesterday he couldn't reach Daley to confirm Rendell's remarks.

• On Sunday in Reno, Nev., at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Rendell is scheduled to make the case for gun control, such as limiting buyers to one gun a month. The mayor is to discuss the issue before 300 mayors in a forum with the head of the gunmakers' trade organization.

• Heston, on "Meet the Press," changed the subject when asked whether he would support Rendell in any lawsuit.

It's unclear how much money See **GUNS** on A11

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the hap- wel- that in di- other, involving Will Gonzalez of Philadelphia's Police-Barrio Relations Project, Jose Valdez of the Philadelphia Police Department, and L. Felipe Restrepo of the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania, will examine issues concerning police conduct. Others will look at charter schools and health and civil-rights issues.

Community groups are also planning a series of events to coincide with the conference. HACE's Alvarez hopes to organize informal tours of El Centro, which he hopes will showcase its restaurants, stores and other businesses and dispel a nagging misconception.

"The biggest problem that has set the community back is the perception of crime out of control," he said. "We have crime, just like anyone else, but the perception that you can't come in without being shot at is not reality."

For Jose Villarta, a Nicaraguan immigrant who runs the Silver Bells Bridal Shop at 2933 N. Fifth St. with his wife, Aura, the conference represents a chance to entice more shoppers.

"People don't know we have a business district here. They only think of the Italian Market, but we have a Spanish market, too," said Villarta, whose wife specializes in dresses for first communions and quinceaneras.

El Concilio has timed one of the highlights of its annual Puerto Rican Festival for the conference: This year's Penn's Landing celebration will take place on July 18 and 19, with an array of food, music and other performances, Santiago said.

And a July 21 reception organized by the Latin American Economic Development Association of Camden will take place at both Penn's Landing and the New Jersey State Aquarium, in Camden.

Still, local organizers hope the conference will do more than lift spirits.

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS



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SALE

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# Rendell and NRA consider making Philadelphia a 'test city'

**GUNS** from A10 would be at stake. But the dimensions of the city gun problem are huge. Among the top U.S. cities, Philadelphia has the highest proportion of murders and robberies committed by gun. Last year, a record 82 percent of 409 homicides were by firearms. By contrast, the rate in New York was 62 percent.

City courts already handle roughly 7,500 cases yearly of gun stickups, assaults and other lesser firearms arrests. More than half result in acquittal or dropped charges,

and only a relatively few of those convicted receive serious jail time in a city with cells for just 6,000 inmates.

In an interview this week, Rendell said the proposals to crack down on gun offenders would require "significant increases in funding."

LaPierre, however, suggested the price tag might be modest: the matter of hiring perhaps 10 additional federal prosecutors and support staff. The U.S. Attorney's office now has 75 prosecutors. The local office

of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has about 15 agents focused on guns.

Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Huntley Palmer Jr., head of firearms prosecutions, noted yesterday that the feds already pick up prosecutions of about 80 Philadelphians each year on gun-related charges. Palmer said he has been working to drive up that number.

These defendants, sometimes dubbed "armed career criminals," face a different world from the city criminal justice system. They often

are jailed while they await trial, which takes place more quickly. And they can receive long sentences in far-away institutions.

Still, Palmer noted, not every gun arrest can be made "a federal case" — in part because federal crime statutes limit prosecutors to the selection of suspects with previous criminal convictions for felonies.

On "Meet the Press," Rahm Emanuel, White House senior adviser, had at best a tepid response to Heston's test-city idea, suggesting that the choice facing Americans was

not either/or — tough law enforcement or gun control.

Emanuel said that the President had supported both, and that the NRA had resisted the three major gun-control measures passed under Clinton: the waiting period for buying handguns, the ban on certain so-called "assault weapons," and the banning of guns to people with records of domestic abuse.

On "Meet the Press," Rahm Emanuel, White House senior adviser, had at best a tepid response to Heston's test-city idea, suggesting that the choice facing Americans was

just one. She said a pending White House-backed crime bill, modeled in part on Boston's successful attack on juvenile homicide, would do just that.

Christina Martin, spokeswoman for House Speaker Newt Gingrich, also seemed cautious in her remarks. She said Gingrich would refer the proposal to a Kentucky congressman who is chairman of a panel that reviews Justice Department spending.

**EXTRA SHOPPING HOURS, FRIDAY 10 AM TO MIDNIGHT**

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### The Gun Debate

# A high-powered crusade reducing gun homicides

One in an occasional series.

By Jeff Gammage  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

RICHMOND, Va. — When city police stopped Andre Hunter for a minor traffic violation, it wasn't bad driving or even the cocaine stashed in his pants that got him in real trouble.

It was the gun the officers found hidden in his jacket.

In this city, under an innovative law-enforcement program called Project Exile, routine gun cases now are being treated as federal weapons offenses — ensuring quick prosecutions and longer sentences.

Hunter, 24, a passenger in a Nissan Maxima when he was arrested on Feb. 10, pleaded guilty to possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute and to being a felon in possession of a firearm — a stolen Star 9mm pistol, loaded with seven rounds. At his sentencing hearing Wednesday, he asked the court for another chance, saying he had

found the Lord and spends every night reading the Bible.

"I'm willing to change my life and do some great things for this community," Hunter told U.S. District Judge James Spencer.

Maybe so. But first Hunter is going to do serious time: The judge sentenced him to five years in prison.

## Mayor Rendell wants to re-create the Richmond, Va., program in Philadelphia.

If Hunter had been tried in the city courts, his attorney said afterward, he probably wouldn't have gotten a day.

That's the essence of Project Exile, a high-energy, high-volume crusade to get illegal guns and criminal gun users off the streets of

Richmond. Backers say the program has powered a startling drop in gun-related homicides in a city consistently ranked among the nation's murder capitals.

The results are so encouraging that Mayor Rendell and the National Rifle Association have proposed re-creating the Richmond experiment in Philadelphia, which

See GUNS on A11



Umbrellas crowd the sand at Rehoboth Beach as people escape the typical July heat, and from the southwest should bring

## A hit in Europe. Shared cars ease worries of ownership

By Mary Williams Walsh  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

GRAEFELFING, Germany — Everybody knows that cars and suburbs go together. Maybe two cars. A double garage. And all the bills and hassles that go with car ownership. Right?

Well, then what is Christa Muggli doing in the Munich suburbs,

*Basques had escaped poverty in Spain and settled in Idaho. Their successors are from the Andean ranges of Colorado.*

## Now Idaho turns south for sl

By Gwen Florio  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

McCALL, Idaho — Harry Soulen, a rancher, as were his father and grandfather before him, remembers the days when his sheepherders spoke of their charges as *ardi*.

The word is Basque, as were the herders, who had come from northern Spain to escape poverty and political turmoil in their homeland. They brought their skills, as well as their



# produces positive side effects

**GUNS** from A1 has the highest proportion of gun homicides among major U.S. cities. In Richmond, 140 people were slain in 1997, 122 of them with guns. In the first six months of last year, 62 people were shot to death. During the same time this year, 22 were killed — a 65 percent decrease. Partial July figures are equally encouraging: nine dead last year, two this year.

"We have a huge problem," said S. David Schiller, a senior counsel in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Richmond and an architect of Project Exile, so named because it "exiles" gun users from the community. "I believed it would make a difference. We're two years ahead of my most wild, optimistic projections."

Gun suspects face a harsher world in the federal system: Prosecutions move faster, defendants often are jailed while awaiting trial, sentences are lengthier, and there's no parole.

Since Project Exile began early last year, 259 suspects have been arrested and nearly 80 percent have been convicted or pleaded guilty. Their average prison term is nearly five years.

Meanwhile, local law-enforcement officials say the program is producing a myriad of positive side effects: Gun seizures are up; armed robberies are down; more citizens are calling police with tips about gun crimes.

Now, other cities, Philadelphia among them, are exploring whether Project Exile should be the model for their own attacks on gun violence.

Rendell and the NRA have proposed making Philadelphia — seven times larger and far more diverse than Richmond — a test site for a similar crackdown, in which federal officials would prosecute gun-possession violations. The NRA believes weak enforcement, not weak laws, fuels firearms violence.

Sen. Arlen Specter (R., Pa.) has obtained preliminary approval of \$1.3 million to hire federal agents and prosecutors who would handle only gun crimes. If the plan is endorsed by President Clinton, the city would get the money in October. Rendell is going to Washington today to lobby for White House support for the federal aid.

Philadelphia leads the nation's 10 largest cities in the percentage of homicides that are gun slayings. In 1996, that figure was 82 percent, compared with 62 percent in New York. Huntley Palmer Jr., chief of the U.S. attorney's firearms-prosecution unit, told City Council that Philadelphia was "the leading major city in the nation with respect to firearms violence," mostly because of the "easy availability of firearms and resulting rise in the number of handguns on the streets."

Last year, about 1,500 adults were brought into Municipal Court and Common Pleas Court on gun charges. Half went free through acquittals, dismissals or dropped charges. A third received probation. Less than one-fourth were convicted, and of those, only 7 percent were sentenced to more than two years.

Moving some of these cases into the federal system could bring more convictions and tougher sentences. "It could be used successfully in the city of Philadelphia," said U.S. Attorney Helen Fahey in Richmond.

Possession of a gun by a convicted felon, carrying a gun while selling drugs, and having a gun with an obliterated serial number are federal crimes. The laws are not new; they date from the 1960s — but now they are being aggressively enforced by Richmond authorities.

"Something we need to be concerned about is we don't declare victory too early," Richmond Deputy Police Chief Fred Russell said. "The numbers are promising. They sound good. But a lot of hard work needs to be done to continue the progress."

A central component of Project Exile is a saturation advertising

campaign that trumpets a single, potent message: "An illegal gun gets you five years in prison." Billboards, newspapers, handbills, television ads and even a big black city bus have been splashed with the message, and police officers say word is getting around.

Richmond Police Sgt. Steve Owenby said he stopped three men last month because they matched the description of suspects who had threatened people with guns. He searched one of the men, asking if he had a weapon.

"Right out of his mouth," Owenby said, "he goes, 'Exile will give you five years. I'd be an old man when I get out.'" None of the three was armed.

Richmond is one of a few cities — Boston is another — that have mounted experimental strikes against gun crimes by strengthening enforcement of laws. The idea is to get guns away from those who carry them illegally, the people most likely to use them to commit new crimes. Motivating people against carrying guns also reduces the number of impulse killings — committed by angry spouses or reckless drug dealers, for example — because no weapon is at hand.

"It's one element to discourage them from routinely carrying firearms, not to say they might not have the thing under their mattresses," said former New York Police Commissioner William Bratton, now a law-enforcement consultant. "In Boston it was used very effectively to target the gangs, both from a practical as well as a psychological standpoint."

In Richmond, the so-called gun-carry rate, the percentage of times an officer confiscates a weapon during an arrest, has been cut in half. Project Exile has been endorsed

by both poles of the gun debate. Handgun Control Inc. and the NRA, which donated \$10,000 to the advertising campaign.

Still, some critics, including Bratton, have accused the NRA of hypocrisy — endorsing a federal crackdown while lobbying for weaker search-and-seizure laws and against more money for federal firearms agents. Virginia is one of three states that restrict buyers to one handgun purchase a month, a limit opposed by the NRA.

People in Richmond say gun violence touches every facet of city life, and not just in the number of dead, grieving and wounded it leaves behind. It also exacts a psychic toll from fearful residents, and no one has enjoyed seeing this genteel Southern city portrayed as a modern-day Wild West.

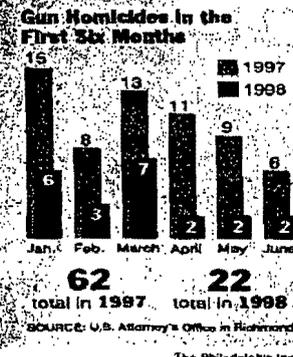
Businesspeople say a violent image also has a very real economic cost, driving away tourists and businesses. They see the success of Project Exile as crucial to the city's plans to expand its convention center and open a new, visitor-friendly canal park.

"We were in a bad situation before Exile," said William Baxter, president of the Retail Merchants Association of Greater Richmond. "It became a marketing issue for us: How do we portray a safer environment? Exile has been the key driver in that."

But not everyone in the capital of the Confederacy is so admiring. Some defense lawyers say basic fairness is violated when people caught with guns receive longer terms than offenders who actually hurt someone.

Local attorney Bradford Johnson, who represented Andre Hunter in federal court last week, said defendants were being hit with so much time that it amounted to cruel and unusual punishment. "I think at some point it's going to be declared unconstitutional," he said. "It turns the federal court into a police

Richmond's Project Exile is credited with a dramatic drop in gun homicides since it went into effect in February 1997.



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## Lockheed Army's ir

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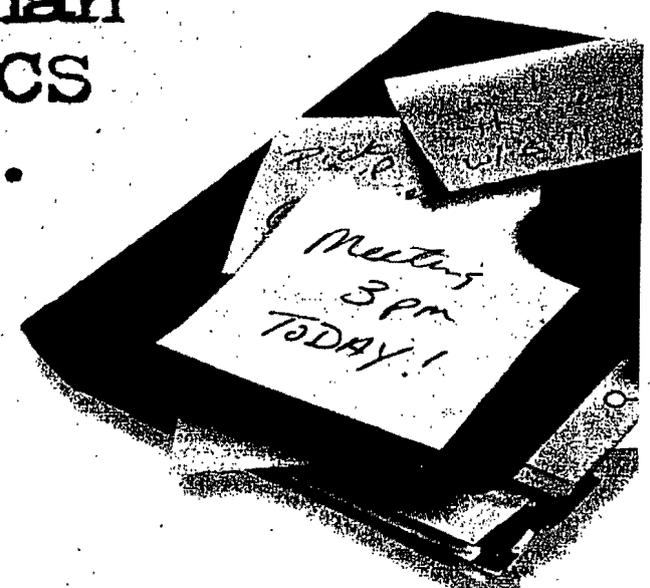
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# Rendell, NRA want Phila. as 'test city'

Their ideas differ, but the mayor and the NRA want to figure out ways to stop gun violence.

By Craig R. McCoy  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Mayor Rendell and the National Rifle Association have decided they have something in common after all: They both would like to make Philadelphia a test city for muzzling gun violence.

Rendell this week wrote the gun owners' group "to extend an invitation for the NRA to join in partnership with the City of Philadelphia" to crack down on gun criminals — and the NRA is jubilant about the prospect.

Wayne LaPierre, the NRA chief executive officer, said yesterday that his organization, a well-funded, perennially powerful force on Capitol Hill, would lobby hard with the GOP leadership in Congress to give Philadelphia money to make it a test city.

New NRA president Charlton Heston first floated the idea at the recent NRA convention here, asking for President Clinton to designate one city in America for zero tolerance of gun violence. The idea is to demonstrate the rifle group's long-held view that lack of enforcement of existing gun laws lies at the root of gun violence, not failures in the gun-control laws.

LaPierre urged Rendell to lobby Clinton.

"If he'll get the White House, I've got Congress," LaPierre said yesterday. "That's the historic opportunity here."

LaPierre added that he has already been lobbying Congress:

"Whatever the Justice Department needs to do this, they will appropriate it. I've been working this thing because I'm dead serious."

At the convention and in appearances since, Heston has been vigorously selling the idea. He wasn't available for comment yesterday. On Sunday, he appeared on NBC-TV's *Meet the Press* and talked up a program in Richmond, Va., that has cut murders in half.

See GUNS to A10

# Getting the bridge in shape



The Philadelphia Inquirer / APRIL 5, 1998

Workers walk among the cables that hold up the Ben Franklin Bridge. The bridge is undergoing a \$90 million restoration, part of which is an overhaul of the two main cables that is expected to cost \$17.3 million. The 30-inch cables will undergo a two-year procedure that will include an inspection, wire by pencil-thin wire; repair as necessary, and recoating to protect them from the elements. B9.

More than just a fiesta in Philadelphia.

The Dogs out to change

more than two years.  
Moving some of these cases into  
PAGE 01

Inside

How the FBI goes undercover to fight child pornography on the

Using tobacco

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