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A REAL CRIME PLAN FOR PHILADELPHIA

Before the politicians tell you what they’ll do, ask them what they’ve done. They’ve failed.

For decades, Philadelphia’s crime problem has devastated our communities. I have seen how crime affects every Philadelphia neighborhood.

This isn’t theoretical to me. It’s not something I have to study. I’ve had employees murdered. I’ve sat with customers who lost loved ones to gun violence. It’s touched every family, including my own.

The root cause of crime in our city — as is the case with so many of our challenges — is the structural poverty that has only gotten worse over the past 50 years. Poverty breeds despair and hopelessness, and crime inevitably follows.

I’ve done everything I could over my career to combat the root causes of crime. We’ve worked hard to make our stores clean, well-lit, safe places where every customer feels respected. We’ve initiated gun buy-back programs that have taken thousands of guns off the streets. We’ve hired formerly incarcerated people. We’ve made sure all our union employees earn a good wage with healthcare, childcare, and retirement benefits.

Now, all the candidates who’ve spent years in City Hall tell us they have a 10-point plan to stop the crime that worsened on their watch. Well, mine goes up to 11.

But the truth is that it’s not enough to have a plan or make a promise. The next Mayor has to execute. They have to lead the City’s response to crime. They have to manage the response and direct resources where they’re needed most.

That’s what I’ve done for 35 years, and that’s the change I’ll bring to City Hall as the next Mayor of Philadelphia.

1. Put More Police on the Street:
We need to address the police shortage and change policies that don’t make sense. That starts with putting 1,500 more officers on the street, making sure our police force better represents the city it serves. That means re-evaluating some policies that just don’t make sense, whether it’s ending the prohibition on officers patrolling their own communities, helping people who want to serve to address gaps in their applications, and creating a new classification of public safety officers who are an unarmed, visible presence across the city.

As Mayor, I will also work with the police to re-deploy sworn officers currently serving in non-police roles and to address abuses in the workers compensation/Heart and Lung system while making sure injured officers get the best possible care. Finally, we’ll make sure the Department coordinates with SEPTA to ensure safety throughout the transit system.
2. **Train Officers to Protect and Truly Serve Every Community:**
Putting respect at the front of police training is central to strengthening trust between the police and the public. That means putting de-escalation front and center. Too many tragedies have occurred when a confusing or volatile situation was exacerbated by the injection of an aggressive presence.

Training must also include a focus on results-oriented policing. Our goal is **mutual respect** between the police and the community. This will result in a level of trust that makes community policing even more effective.

3. **Invest in State-of-the-Art Technology that Stops Crime:**
We are not using every tool at our disposal to catch the people responsible for most of the crime in Philadelphia. As a result, 87% of violent crime goes unpunished.

Streetlights are out on too many blocks. Our existing network of cameras is broken. But that’s not all. We’re just not keeping pace with technology.

Whether it’s investing in gunshot detection cameras that can pinpoint a shooter’s location within seconds and record the incident, AI to monitor social media for evidence or even prevent crime, or upgraded forensics capabilities, we will never get ahead of the crime problem if the criminals are using more advanced technology to get away with crime than we are to catch them.

4. **Crack Down on Gun Violence:**
The city can **and must** take steps to curb gun violence. Fifteen years ago, I partnered with a local nonprofit to start a gun buyback program that has taken **thousands of guns off the street**. Finally, this past year, the City joined our program. As Mayor, I will continue to support gun buybacks; focus police resources on the individuals most responsible for gun violence; require safety locks and other gun safety measures; find and prosecute ghost gun sellers; collaborate with the state AG’s office, the Pennsylvania Illegal Gun Task Force, and federal agents to prosecute illegal gun possession; and increase resources to combat gun violence.

5. **Combat the Drug Epidemic:**
We need to combat the drug epidemic in corporate boardrooms, not just in the streets. That means cracking down harder on opioid manufacturers and holding them accountable for the crisis they created. We cannot allow them to continue blanketing the streets with drugs and putting profits over people while our neighborhoods — and our families — suffer. We also need more access to specialized drug courts and treatment to make sure people living with addiction get the help they need.

6. **Curb Gangs and Youth Violence:**
I will work with law enforcement and community groups to reduce youth violence and expand the Philadelphia Group Violence Intervention program. I will explore implementing curfew resource centers to ensure that kids who are at-risk for falling into our criminal justice system are off the streets after curfew.

We also need to recognize that a good job is the best deterrent to crime. K-12 outcomes and our workforce development system should be reimagined to focus on preparing our young people for jobs with good wages that they can move into immediately with a high school/career and technical education.

7. **Implement Smarter Strategies for Decreasing Crime:**
We know there are approximately 1,700 people responsible for the vast majority of violent crime in Philadelphia. We know who they are, and we should have a laser-like focus on putting them behind bars.
For non-violent individuals, we should explore options that give people the second chances we all deserve. We can use diversion programs, drug courts and veterans courts to hold people accountable for their actions while directing them to the services they need to turn their lives around. Instead of creating additional barriers for people who are already struggling, we can direct them to workforce development, drug treatment and other interventions.

8. Protecting Every Community:
We must create safe spaces for survivors of domestic violence and make sure that every community feels safe. We will repeal probation for batterers who violate no-contact orders; get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers; intervene early in the lives of children exposed to violence; and link domestic violence victims with work and housing opportunities and other solutions to poverty.

We will use culturally competent policing to patrol the Gayborhood, Chinatown, and other neighborhoods where people are targeted because of their identity.

9. End Poverty to End Crime:
We will not eliminate crime and violence until we eliminate the root cause: poverty. I will make Philadelphia a leader in providing universal early childhood education. We need greater investments in workforce development. We will increase affordable and workforce housing, expand after-school programs, and provide career opportunities, summer jobs, and internships for every kid. We will reopen our swimming pools, rec centers, and libraries.

10. Inspire Pride in Our Neighborhoods:
When street corners become illegal dumping sites, vacant lots are overgrown and abandoned cars line entire city blocks, it’s hard to feel any pride in the city.

What does that have to do with reducing crime? Just about everything – as countless studies in our own city have shown. It’s not just about blight — it’s symptomatic of a larger problem we face in our city and in city government. When people feel pride and ownership in their neighborhoods, they thrive. Timely and efficient city services help foster that pride.

In my stores, the aisles are clean, the parking lots well-lit, and the entire area is safe. It’s how we show respect for our customers. Somehow, City Hall missed the memo.

As Mayor, I will direct the Streets Department to train and hire more workers, implement regular street cleaning and give our sanitation workers the equipment they need to keep every neighborhood clean. I will also restore the Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet. We will focus on greening the city, prioritizing tree cover and green space. We will embrace the full “Waste Free Philly” agenda and step up enforcement and increase fines for illegal dumping.

A cleaner city will show Philadelphians greater respect. I want to help inspire every Philadelphian to take pride in every block.

11. Manage to Overcome Our Crime Problem:
Ultimately, we don’t need another politician’s empty promises. We need a Mayor willing to take responsibility and manage the city’s crime response. I will expect to see the Police Commissioner and the other leaders of the criminal justice system in my office every morning until we see a meaningful reduction in crime. I will actively listen to feedback from citizens all over the city to make sure their needs are being met. And I will direct people and resources to the areas that need the most assistance, making sure that every department is working together to put Philadelphia back on track.