



Violence in America

National Press Club
Washington, D.C.

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Mayor Michael Nutter

*****Remarks as prepared for delivery*****

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Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu

Good afternoon. Mayor Nutter and I come here today to talk about an urgent national issue. Young African American men are being killed and are killing in alarming numbers.

Across America, it is a constant drum beat of death - a constant drum beat of shootings and murder - day after day after day after day.

We are losing a whole generation of promise, but the response to this daily carnage has been eerily quiet.

We are numb to the violence, numb to its dreadful consequences. The problem is so complex, it's so painful that we are overwhelmed and we look away.

Maybe we're scared that if we speak up and get involved, we'll end up in the crosshairs.

Or perhaps we have bought into an evil notion - that the lives of young African American men are somehow less valuable than the rest of us. We've all heard it before - "just thugs killing thugs. There's nothing you can do about it."

But this is a lie.

Every life is precious and these young men were not predestined to this fate. We will never know what might have been.

Last year, 193 people, our fellow citizens, were murdered in my city of New Orleans.

193 tragic stories and a wake of destruction and heart break, a huge number of the victims and perpetrators – young African American men, many of whom knew each other.

The shooter of today often becomes the victim of tomorrow.

And along the way so many innocents get caught in the crossfire of hell. Hard truths fall painfully on ears that do not want to hear.

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America is drunk on violence and we drown in sorrow as we suffer these deaths and the consequences therefrom.

Let us remember just a few of the recent victims- Samuel Bryant, Alvin Banks, Tyren Nettles, Michael Randall, Tillman Hawkins, Billy McCormick, Edward Isom, Christine George and her two children Trisa and Leonard.

Mayor Nutter and I look at these circumstances with eyes wide open and are here to say that we are not afraid because we have great faith in America and its people.

There is nothing broken here that cannot be fixed.

No problem here that cannot be solved.

But the challenge of murder is both wide and deep and must be addressed broadly as an issue of public health with close connections to economics, education, poverty, law enforcement, race, and American culture.

Here is the point—a lot must change to stop the shooting, to stop the violence.

So it is time to marshal every resource – federal, state and local, private, faith-based, not-for-profit – to turn the tide.

It is time we take a hard look in the mirror and recognize our own personal responsibility to strengthen our families, to improve our communities and change the culture of violence.

We need everyone on board- every parent and grandparent, every pastor and every coach, every friend, every neighbor.

This violence will not stop until we all get involved.

We may not all be at fault, but we all have a responsibility to take on this fight and find an answer.

Mayor Michael Nutter

We are not all at fault, but we are all responsible.

As Dr. King wrote, we are “tied together in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

Young, black men are dying in America--does America notice?

Last year, 331 people, our fellow citizens, were murdered in my city of Philadelphia.

331 tragic stories and a wake of destruction and heart break.

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And generally, 75 - 80 percent of the victims and perpetrators- black men, many very young.

Each violent act tears at our nation's soul, and each murder leaves a wide wake of destruction—a long line of victims.

A young child who loses a father; a mother's heart is broken, a family is left alone. And in a downward spiral violence begets violence.

The son of today's victim picks up a gun and tomorrow there are 2 tragedies – Perpetrator and victim.

Murder doesn't just happen.

This poisonous fruit grows out of a contaminated soil fed by poverty and hopelessness.

For many, the deck is stacked against them from day one - poor schools, inadequate health care, no jobs.

The cycle of poverty is chewing up another generation and spits out the result for all to see.

Criminals terrorize communities.

Decent, hardworking people become afraid and neighborhoods struggle to hold the line.

Indeed, during these past decades, I have seen a marked change in the neighborhoods where I grew up.

The sense of community has diminished. Neighbors who a generation before lived together, ate together, celebrated together and shared together a collective responsibility.

Now, that commune of fellowship doesn't seem to exist – we are estranged, we are not watching each other's backs.

Now the mindset is, "It's not my business, not my problem."

As our neighborhoods decline, so do the dreams and expectations of those who live there.

And from this downward slide comes the various ills we face today, including the scourge of murder.

But Mayor Landrieu and I are here to say-it is not too late – we can change- we must change- every life is precious.

This is a national problem with national implications that deserves a national response and action, everyone doing their part -- local, state and federal government- parents, teachers, pastors, friends and neighbors.

Now is the time to say what needs to be said and do what needs to be done.

Period.

No more nice talk, no more happy talk, no more talking to be talking – only action and results.

If we do not have the urgency to stand up now and say “enough”, then when?

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu

We are running out of time.

If we do not have the urgency to stand up now and say “enough” then when?

Every minute we waste costs us a life.

Every day, from before dawn to the stroke of midnight, on average 40 more of our fellow citizens will be lost, 40 more killed in the neighborhoods of America.

America cannot be strong abroad if we are weak at home.

The humanitarian crisis is not just in some far off nation, but here on our streets, in our neighborhoods and in our homes.

Morally, economically, and for the good of this nation’s strength and security, we must do more.

Each generation comes to this point.

Each generation makes a choice.

Each generation for a moment grips that arc of history and bends it, one way or another.

During the March on Washington fifty years ago a quarter million men, women and children took their turn and came to the foot of the Lincoln Memorial to demand that America live up to our founding creed- the sacred promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and justice for all.

In a million ways since that moment in 1963, America has moved forward, but somewhere along the way something has gone terribly wrong.

Congressman John Lewis laments this condition saying that “we didn’t get arrested and go to jail... we didn’t sit in; we didn’t march... for young men to continue to kill each other.”

Dr. King did not take a bullet and Congressman Lewis did not take a beating for this drumbeat of death to become a way of life.

Consider this, from 1980-2012, 626,000 people, a disproportionate number African Americans, murdered on the streets of America.

That's more Americans than were lost during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the War in Iraq, and War in Afghanistan- combined.

So the struggle goes on and it is clear that the catastrophic death of young black men on the streets of America remains strange fruit from the same poisonous tree of hatred, injustice and inequality - a vestige of our nation's Original Sin.

As William Faulker noted for us, "the past is never dead. It's not even past."

We've come far, but what will it take for our nation to take on these burning issues today?

50 years ago it was a bombing at Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church and the death of four innocent little girls that galvanized this nation.

Today, now many months removed from the horrible Newtown massacre and in the shadow of the recent Navy Yard attack, not much has changed.

Just last week at a park in Chicago, 13 people shot, including a 3-year-old.

Even the near daily shootings and murder of innocent children on the streets of America doesn't spur us to act.

Indeed, it was earlier this month in New Orleans when 1-year old Londyn Samuels was shot and killed as she was held by her babysitter.

Days later, 11-year old Arabian Gayles was shot dead as she slept on the couch in her living room in the middle of the night.

Jeremy Galmon heard gunshots and peered out the back window of his grandma's car - a bullet meant for another struck the 2-year old in the head, killing him.

Londyn, Arabian and Jeremy join a long line of baby angels taken from us. We should remember – Keira Holmes, age 2, Briana Allen, age 5, Edward Barton, Kendall and Kelsey Thornton.

50 years ago, the nation wept for Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Denise McNair – the four little girls killed by the Ku Klux Klan at the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Today it's the same young faces. The same innocence lost. The same potential snuffed out.

Not so much as a whisper.

This cannot stand.

It is time for this nation to finish the work of William Wilber-force and Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederick Douglas, and Abraham Lincoln, of Kennedy and King.

Mayor Michael Nutter

The current situation of violence in America is perfectly captured by a federal report from the *National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders*.

This blue ribbon Commission created by the President reports that “our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white— separate and unequal.”

And that the violence is “foreshadowed by an accumulation of unresolved grievances and by wide-spread dissatisfaction.”

The Commission’s recommendations are straight-forward and basic:

Better housing for black men and women outside of impoverished areas;

More investment in public education;

New major public works projects that include job training;

And a stronger safety net.

These recommendations resonate.

This is our reality today.

But this report was not written about today’s situation.

It was written in 1967, 46 years ago, by a group better known as the Kerner Commission, which was created by President Lyndon Johnson in response to the rioting in Detroit, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Newark.

In 1967, the Federal government, just as some in government do today, largely ignored the truth and the Commission’s recommendations.

Now, our problems are bigger and more difficult to resolve.

Black men are becoming an endangered species in America- locked up, dead or dying.

No education, no money, no health care, no security or stability.

The pressure of poverty takes a toll and often turns to desperation; frustration becomes cynicism and misery.

In despair, hate grows and the violence spreads like a virus.

One crime leads to another, the dominoes start to fall, and it often ends in tragedy-blood on the street.

We justify our collective inaction on this issue of murder with self-deception: “not my problem” “not my neighborhood” “not my children” “just thugs killing thugs...and there is nothing we can do about it.”

And let me be clear—poverty is not an excuse for violence— but it is the major explanation for many negative life changing outcomes in America.

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu

But there is something that we can do.

There is something we must do.

Here is the truth-on this issue of violence; we as a society have lost our way.

Like a vine choking the life from a proud oak, the creeping scourge of violence tightens its grip on our nation.

We have to change.

Turning the tide is a huge challenge and much needs to happen in order to make a difference.

In New Orleans we have designed and are implementing a cutting edge comprehensive murder reduction strategy called NOLA FOR LIFE.

It is smart, holistic, and it hits the streets.

Prevention and helping our young people and families succeed is the name of the game.

So, we support innovative reforms to improve our schools and we doubled funding for recreation.

We launched the innovative Ceasefire New Orleans to help mediate conflicts and stop the cycle of violence.

And earlier this week we tipped-off season five of Midnight Basketball where every Saturday night hundreds of mostly young African American men from high crime areas come out to play ball, and then we connect them to jobs, training or whatever else they

may need to get out of the life and into the real game that matters.

But step one in NOLA FOR LIFE is stop the bleeding, stop the death, stop the shooting.

We have to stop the shooting first.

So, we've focused on enforcement- beefed up the homicide unit, gotten smart with more precise hot spot policing, and focused on gangs, establishing a new Multi-Agency Gang Unit with local, state and federal law enforcement like US Attorney for 'Louisiana's Eastern District Kenneth Polite who is with us here today.

To fight this scourge of murder, we have sent a message through both word and deed, to those terrorizing our neighborhoods- stop the shooting, put down your gun or else we are coming for you...and all the people you hang with.

With NOLA FOR LIFE we are making progress.

Last year, nationally murder and violent crime was on the rise, but in New Orleans overall crime was down and now murder is down over 25 percent compared to this time last year.

Our progress is promising, but – is really a drop in the bucket against a tidal wave of trouble rolling our way.

The pledge of allegiance asserts that we are “one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Indivisible means one not capable of being divided.

This is what it means to be an American- we have a shared destiny whether you live in North Philly, the South Side of Chicago, New Orleans' 7th Ward, Southeast DC or right here in this very spot.

And herein lies part of the message for today- preventing murder and stopping violent crime must become a national priority to be faced together as one nation, indivisible.

So, Mayor Nutter and I come to you today as Generals during wartime.

We are telling Congress, we need a surge on the streets of America.

Local, state, and federal government, each need to do their part; churches and schools, friends and neighbors, mothers and fathers, each need to do their part.

Washington is broken. It's time for our country to do what is difficult for the sake of doing what is right.

Mayor Michael Nutter

In 2012, 3 out of every 4 Philadelphia homicide victims were African American men—that's 236 people.

Last year, in 2012, 193 murders in New Orleans, 500 murders in Chicago, 419 in New York City, 127 in Oakland, 133 in Memphis, 331 in Philadelphia, 113 in St. Louis, 218 in Baltimore, 386 in Detroit.

On average, 40 people lost every day to this crisis, this virus of murder— a massacre worse than Newtown every 24 hour, a body count higher than 9/11 every two and a half months.

Now think about this— if the Ku Klux Klan came to Philadelphia and killed 236 black men, the city would be on lockdown.

If 236 Philadelphians were killed in a train accident, the National Transportation Safety Board would mobilize, and there would be Congressional hearings on train safety.

If 236 well-off white kids from the Philadelphia suburbs were murdered there would be hell to pay.

And if international terrorists killed 236 Philadelphians of any race – we would hunt them down for decades and bring them to justice no matter the cost, no matter how much time – we would just do it.

And yet, 236 African American men murdered in one city...not one word.

No hearings on The Hill, no investigations, no Special or Select Committees, nothing— but silence.

On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered a horrific attack on our country and our citizens.

A year later, the 9/11 Commission was created.

With 80 top notch staffers and a budget of about \$15 million the Commission over nearly a year and a half interviewed more than 1200 individuals in ten countries and left no stone unturned, issuing a final report with dozens of recommendations.

Because of 9/11, a sprawling new Cabinet-level department was created, the Department of Homeland Security.

The Transportation Security Administration was established and the federal government took control of airport security, spending billions to hire and train tens of thousands of new airport screeners.

Now you can hardly cough in an airport without the TSA doing a check, and I respect and appreciate their work— we all want to be safe.

On that horrible day in 2001, there were 2,977 innocent victims.

As a result- two wars costing thousands of lives and trillions of dollars.

But in 2012, in America, 14,827 people lost to murder.

Here is the point –as Americans if something is a priority, like national security after 9/11, we either find a solution or make one.

Here's the crisis: thousands of Black Men and boys, and many other Americans die every day in our country and virtually nothing happens, no sustained comprehensive action is taken to prevent it or stop it, no political or diplomatic solution is brokered among nations and the Congress regarding guns coming into our country – nothing, as if it's not even happening, but it is and it does— every day.

Illegal guns are the Weapons of Mass Destruction on our streets, and we experience mass murder in slow motion – one by one by one by one, every single day.

Where is our “red line” on violence in America?

10,000 + murdered Americans EVERY year – that's a crime against humanity.

We have a Civil War unfolding in our cities every day, every week, every month.

I've talked with President Obama on this issue and he is ready to act, where is the Congress, what will THEY do? So I ask- what if our response to domestic terrorism was as thorough and engaged as our response to international terrorism?

What if we had a '9/11 Commission' about Black men getting slaughtered on our streets- A National Commission on Domestic Terrorism, Crime and Violence in America to examine the root causes of this violence, find solutions and make recommendations for what government at all levels can do to reduce domestic terrorism, violence and crime.

From the 9/11 Commission, we created the TSA, the Transportation Security Administration, now maybe we need the WASA, the Walking Around Security Administration.

This is serious – we need a Domestic Security Agency, because we have a violence problem in America.

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu

This is how the federal government can help reduce gun violence and murder- hit the streets.

Democrats, Republicans, Congress and President Obama- lock hands and launch a stronger, more targeted COPs program to put new cops on the beat, just like Congress and President Clinton did in the 1990s.

Congress has the money.

In fact, according to the Governmental Accountability Office, from 2009-2011 nearly \$14 billion was spent by the US government building, hiring, training and equipping police departments.

But this \$14 billion wasn't spent in New Orleans or Philadelphia or Chicago, even though we are fighting the good fight against violent crime on what amounts to a shoestring budget.

No, this money went to build police departments for the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, Pakistan, Mexico, and Colombia.

We need to redirect federal resources back to the home front.

We need Congress to treat fighting murder and violent crime as a national priority.

Furthermore, we need to do something about criminals with illegal guns.

Let me be clear- I support the Second Amendment.

And the genius of our constitution is that it creates a strong balance in every sentence between rights and responsibilities; it distinguishes between the right to speak our mind and the crime of yelling fire in a crowded movie theatre.

Common sense solutions can be found that strike this balance and stay true to its original intent.

There is common ground on this issue.

I'll give you just one example; everyone can agree that we should do what we can to get illegal guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

And here is one specific way we can do it.

Over 30 years ago Congress authorized federal agencies and prosecutors to target drug dealers as a part of the 'war on drugs.'

We should do the same thing with violent gun offenders and make their prosecution a federal priority.

Let's give prosecutors clear concurrent jurisdiction over all violent offenses committed by firearms that travelled in interstate commerce.

Let's bring the hammer down on these violent criminals with the full weight of the federal judicial system.

Mayor Michael Nutter

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On these big issues of the day Mayor Landrieu and I refuse to look away.

We won't be quiet.

Americans tackle problems.

We fix things; we put our hands to the plow and find a way to make life better.

So we started to do the research and get others involved to answer the question: what is happening in the streets and why?

What we found was that murder is not just a Philadelphia issue.

It is not just a New Orleans issue.

This is a national issue
that deserves a national conversation and national action.

In America, young black men are being slaughtered and we need everyone on board to find solutions.

So we have brought together our federal and state partners, Mayors from across the country, and philanthropic leaders like the Casey Family Programs to establish Cities United— a new initiative specifically aimed at finding ways to stop the murder of young African American men.

Cities United seeks to:

Create Urgency:

Dispel Myths:

Unpack the Reality

Name the Challenge

As part of this effort, we in Philadelphia have taken some very practical steps to reduce violent crime and murder.

First, we've got to do something about illegal guns.

As I often say to those with illegal guns, "Got a Gun, Go to Jail."

I'm not talking about legally purchased guns that people use for protection and other legal purposes.

We are targeting illegal guns bought from straw purchasers and used by criminals to wreak havoc in our city.

Second, get tough on enforcement.

We have restarted Operation Pressure Point, which deploys our police officers into crime hot spots and takes the fight to the corners.

Furthermore, we're working closely with business owners to register surveillance cameras so when a crime happens the police can quickly get the evidence and take down the criminals.

Third, we're reaching out, trying to stop violence before it starts.

We've convened stakeholders from across the city to help on the front lines confronting and preventing violence.

We are making progress.

I can report that this year in Philadelphia murder is down nearly 30 percent and our shootings are down over 16 percent compared to this time last year.

Our progress is promising, but is really a drop in the bucket against a tidal wave of trouble.

One murder or shooting must be unacceptable.

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu

If you really understand this problem you can see that no law, or rule or regulation alone is going to fundamentally change the culture of death on the streets of America.

Government on its best day cannot replace a family.

But government must invest in our communities so families can thrive and children can have a chance.

We need safe streets, more jobs, and better schools.

But it won't matter without personal responsibility.

Babies having babies just doesn't work.

The point is: government can't solve all our problems -- we each need to take care of our own business.

This means pastors, teachers, coaches, neighbors and friends- we each have a big role to play.

There is no excuse.

Quit waiting, start doing.

We may not all be at fault, but we are all responsible.

As Mayors of major American cities, Mayor Nutter and I are the governments closest to the ground.

We do the hard work of governing where word must meet deed, ambition meet human frailty, aspiration crashes against the rocks of reality, and hope hits the streets.

Real time.

Real challenges. Real life. Real death.

We are the ones at the crime scene after the murder.

We get the call when a police officer gets shot.

We get the emails, day in and day out, that always tell the same story: "Mr. Mayor I am sorry to inform you... shots rang out...young, African American man...found in middle of the street...shot three times in the head...there are no witnesses."

We are at the funerals where we lay to rest a 1-year old and an 11-year old caught in this terrible cross fire from hell.

We feel the searing pain of mothers and fathers grieving the loss of a baby child, taken before her time.

We are called to bear witness and so today we do.

To all of the naysayers - I say that you may be able to kill the messenger, but you cannot kill the truth.

Some are cynical and believe that we cannot change.

Some believe that the murder of thousands of young, African American men on our streets is to be accepted, like it is part of the natural order of things.

It does not have to be this way.

There is hope because of young people like Ryan Dalton.

Ryan is the 6th of 11 children, raised by his mom in New Orleans' 8th Ward.

He was nearly lost, shot three times with an AK-47, but he survived and turned his life around with help from a program called Cafe Reconcile, a nonprofit that connects young people to skills and jobs.

He then started his own organization to help young people and last year went to the White House to talk with national leaders about how to stop the violence.

And this winter, he joined my staff as the coordinator for Midnight Basketball where so far in 2013 we have hosted over 2,100 mostly young African American men.

Ryan was saved because through word and deed, we as a community came together to show him love and help him see his unique worth and his remarkable potential.

By working together, we created a pathway to a better future and he took the responsibility and walked down the path.

Now, he is saving the lives of others.

He flipped his script. Don't tell me it can't be done. Ryan is here with us today.

Ryan's life is a testament, that hope – though she may be concealed, is always there, waiting for us to seek her out.

This is where fortitude and courage calls us to keep going.

To hurt, but not to despair, to struggle, but not to stop the never-ending march to a more perfect union that we all dream of.

Mayor Michael Nutter

These issues of the day should capture our attention on a continuous basis.

After all, peace and freedom come only through struggle.

And everything can be lost in a moment.

We cannot dodge our responsibility and ignore these big problems because they don't just "go away."

We've tried that and now the problems are bigger and the remedies more painful than before.

In closing, every New Year's Day, clergy and I visit inmates in the city prisons.

I talk with them— men, women, and yes, juveniles.

A few years back I met a young man named Kent who was 17 years old and faced 7 to 20 years for four armed robberies.

His total haul for these robberies: \$2,000 - so much of his life given for so little.

I stayed and talked with him for a while.

Despite his crimes and decisions, Kent had a youthfulness about him, still a sense of hope and he was smart, articulate, and respectful.

It broke my heart to hear that he had a 3.6 GPA and scored a 1400 on his SATs.

Colleges were still sending letters to his parent's house trying to get him to apply.

What a tragedy.

Kent's story shows in stark terms the crisis we face.

This boy had remarkable potential.

In a different world he could have been anything- a lawyer, a doctor, an engineer, Mayor, Governor, President of the United States.

But instead it is the same old story, similar to so many other young African American men before him- so much talent, so much potential... wasted, either behind bars or in the cold ground.

Now is the time to make combating murder and violent crime a top national priority.

Now is the time for adults to take responsibility for the young people in our lives.

Whether it is your children, your nieces or nephews, your students, your employees or kids who live on your block- we may not all be at fault, but we are all responsible, we each have our role to play.

Through our work, we can inspire our nation and the world and prove that out of tragedy can come triumph.

I have great hope for the people of America because we never stop moving forward, even during our darkest hours, because we take action.

But we have a long way to go, together.

So, here's what you can do:

Do stories on this American problem, week-long specials, show what's going on like you did during the Civil Rights Movement— the hangings, the water hoses, the dogs; like you did during the Vietnam War— dead Americans coming from foreign battlefields.

Take the responsibility and show dead Americans coming from the battlefield streets of cities all over America.

Talk with Mayors and Governors and ask what they're doing and what they need.

Meet with citizens on the streets and hear their pleas and cries for peace and freedom from violence.

Talk to police chiefs and the law enforcement community about their ideas.

Ask members of Congress what they think about it all, and more importantly— what are they going to do about this daily carnage.

What is the Federal response to America's new "Civil War."

Cover these stories, care about the issue, devote air time, budgets and personnel to this horrific American tragedy— Black men and boys are dying, Americans are dying, in our own killing fields— do something now, because knowing demands action.

Thank you.

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ABOUT MAYOR LANDRIEU

Mitchell "Mitch" Landrieu was sworn in as the 61st Mayor of New Orleans on May 3, 2010. Since taking office, he has worked to make the city safer by reforming the New Orleans Police Department and launching NOLA FOR LIFE, a comprehensive strategy to reduce murders. Landrieu created the New Orleans Business Alliance, a public-private partnership for economic development, and has attracted over 4000 new jobs, bringing major retailers, business startups and new private investments. City government spending has been reduced by over 8 percent since 2009, while better services are being delivered. And he helped secure new funding for critical infrastructure to get New Orleans' recovery back on track. New Orleans is now the fastest growing major U.S. city according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Previously, Landrieu served as Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor, leading the effort after Hurricane Katrina to rebuild the tourism industry and the tens of thousands of jobs it creates. He represented the Broadmoor neighborhood in the Louisiana House of Representatives for 16 years. Landrieu was educated at Catholic University in Washington and earned a law degree from Loyola University of New Orleans.

ABOUT MAYOR NUTTER:

Sworn in for a second term in January 2012, Michael A. Nutter has set an aggressive agenda for America's fifth largest city – improving high school graduation and college attainment rates, vowing to strengthen community policing through Philly Rising, a unique partnership between vulnerable neighborhoods and the City, and continuing to implement the nationally recognized GreenWorks Philadelphia initiative that is helping to make the City of Philadelphia become the greenest city in America. Born in Philadelphia and educated at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Michael Nutter has been committed to public

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service since his youth in West Philadelphia. He served almost 15 years on the Philadelphia City Council, earning the reputation of a reformer, before his election as Mayor of Philadelphia. In June 2013, Mayor Nutter concluded his year-long tenure as President of the United States Conference of Mayors.

ABOUT NOLA FOR LIFE

Developed in May 2012, NOLA FOR LIFE is New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu's comprehensive murder reduction strategy. Recognizing that law enforcement alone cannot solve the murder problem, the NOLA FOR LIFE takes a holistic approach to get to the root of the problem and advances initiatives in five main categories including: Stop the Shooting; Invest in Prevention; Promote Jobs and Opportunity; Improve the NOPD; and Get Involved and Rebuild Neighborhoods. Visit www.nolaforlife.org for more information.

ABOUT CITIES UNITED

One of the greatest epidemics facing our country is the death of African American men and boys at the hand of other African American men and boys. Formed in 2011, Cities United is a diverse coalition of mayors working in partnership with aligned organizations dedicated to reducing violent deaths among Black men and boys. Cities United was established to bring mayors from across the country together with community leaders to create opportunities for Black men and boys to achieve their full potential and live long and productive lives.

CONTACT:

City of New Orleans

Garnesha Crawford, Communications Department

(504) 658 – 4945 | communications@nola.gov | gcrawford@nola.gov

City of Philadelphia

Desiree, Peterkin-Bell, Communications Department

(215) 686 – 2192 | desiree.peterkin-bell@phila.gov

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