



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney's Office
District of Delaware*

*Nemours Building
1007 Orange Street, Suite 700
P.O. Box 2046
Wilmington, Delaware 19899-2046*

*(302) 573-6277
FAX (302) 573-6220*

PRESS RELEASE –
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Colm F. Connolly
United States Attorney
(302) 573-6277

**\$175,000.00 FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED
TO THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
PRICES RUN WEED AND SEED COMMUNITY**

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly and City of Wilmington Mayor James M. Baker announced today the awarding of a \$175,000.00 federal grant from the United States Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) to the Prices Run Weed and Seed Community. The Delaware Criminal Justice Council will serve as fiscal agent for the grant. This award is the first year that CCDO has supplied grant money to the Prices Run Weed and Seed site, which became an Officially Recognized Weed and Seed Community in June 2005. The boundaries for Prices Run begin at Brandywine Creek, North on Market Street to 30th Street, East around Prices Run Park to Northeast Boulevard, to Vandever Avenue. The site boundaries encompass Census Tract 6.02.

The \$175,000.00 grant has two components. The first (“weeding”) component is a set aside of \$88,000.00 to fund efforts by Wilmington Police to investigate and arrest drug dealers and violent criminals and to perform community policing services such as regular patrols designed to enhance the safety of the residents and decrease nuisance and quality of life crimes. The second (“seeding”) component focuses on community and economic development as well as prevention, intervention and treatment programs for the residents of the Prices Run community.

U.S. Attorney Connolly explained that “the Prices Run Weed and Seed community is a reflection of the exemplary efforts of its partners - partners from all levels, including grass root community groups.” Mr. Connolly praised in particular the City of Wilmington and Mayor Baker for the City’s commitment to, and support of, the Prices Run Weed and Seed community.

Mayor Baker stated, “The City of Wilmington is grateful for the many friends that have stood by the City as it works to rebuild communities through improved public safety. Many thanks to U.S. Attorney Connolly and the Criminal Justice Council for their support throughout the years. Our continuing relationship and our work together on the Weed and Seed program confirms to me that Wilmington is heading in the right direction on many fronts.”

Chief Michael Szczerba stated, “The Wilmington Department of Police is pleased to receive the news about the Weed and Seed funding. The ability to continue working under such a successful program along with the ongoing enhancement of our Community Policing philosophy will continue to make the City of Wilmington a safer place to live.”

Councilwoman Stephanie T. Bolden stated, “It is truly gratifying to have been chosen as a Weed and Seed Community for the Northeast area, which encompasses a majority of the 3rd Councilmatic District. We look forward to participating to weed out the epidemic of drugs and illegal activities in our communities, but more so a holistic approach to learning the nature of the problems, providing solutions, treatment, housing and empowerment, once again giving back to the residents living in the neighborhood.”

U.S. Attorney Connolly and Mayor Baker also expressed their appreciation to Delaware’s Congressional Delegation, Senators Joseph R. Biden and Thomas R. Carper and Congressman Michael N. Castle for their continued support of Weed and Seed.

For more information, contact Kimberlynn Reeves at (302)573-6277, ext. 146.

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