



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF PHILADELPHIA**

FY 2004 BUDGET HEARING STATEMENT

MARCH 12, 2003

**LYNNE ABRAHAM
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Council President Verna and Members of Council:

Last year, as the City's revenue growth declined and costs increased, I appeared before you and requested a zero increase in all budget categories except Class 100. In that Class you approved my request for a modest 1.7% increase. Although that amount was not even sufficient to fund contracted cost-of-living increases, I have, as in every other year, lived within my budget.

This year, the City's financial picture has worsened. The national economy and our revenues have continued to decline. Our costs, on the other hand, have continued to rise. As a result, I have been asked by the Mayor to again exercise fiscal discipline and to accept a budget decrease. At the same time, I believe that citizen safety is our City's number one priority. Accordingly, I am presenting a budget request that insures my Office's continued high level of performance while recognizing the fiscal reality our City faces. As last year, I am requesting no increase in Classes 200, 300 or 400. Nor am I seeking additional personnel. In fact, the amount I am seeking for personnel costs in Class 100 actually represents a 1.5% decrease when one factors in contracted cost-of-living increases and anticipated lump sum payments due to the DROP program.

In order to make this reduced budget work operationally, I am requesting a no-cost transfer of \$100,000 from Class 100 to Class 200. While this transfer request was timely submitted to the Budget Bureau by inclusion in our budget detail, they neglected to include it in the budget pages submitted to you. The Budget Bureau has apologized for this oversight and has agreed to present this transfer request to you early next fall.