



Committee of Seventy

Clean and effective government. Fair elections. Informed citizens.

4 January 2011

The Honorable Dominic Pileggi
Majority Leader, Pennsylvania Senate
Senate Box 203009
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3009

Dear Senator Pileggi:

The Committee of Seventy, a non-partisan organization fighting for clean and effective government, urges the Pennsylvania Senate to reject Governor Rendell's nomination of Barbara Deeley to serve as Philadelphia's Sheriff. Ms. Deeley has been Chief of Staff to Sheriff John Green, who resigned on December 31, 2010.

The Sheriff's Office faces allegations of serious fiscal mismanagement by Philadelphia's City Controller, whose FY07-09 audit suggested "a heightened risk for improprieties with respect to the Sheriff's Office handling of its custodial bank accounts valued at approximately \$53 million." The Controller also stated that "at no time in recent memory has a city agency so blatantly refused to cooperate and provide our Office with financial information and data." The Controller is now seeking an outside comprehensive forensic audit of the Sheriff's office, which has 230 employees and operates with a \$13.9 million annual budget.

With all due respect to Barbara Deeley, her confirmation at this particular time would send the wrong signal to the public, whose trust in the Sheriff's office has been severely compromised. An appointment of an individual with no ties to Sheriff Green or his administration would provide greater confidence that the issues raised by the Controller's audit can be resolved before the next Sheriff takes office in January 2012.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Stalberg
President and CEO