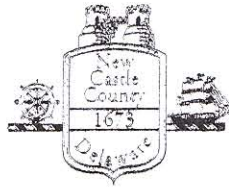


**PAUL G. CLARK
PRESIDENT**



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COUNCIL

January 20, 2009

Governor Elect Jack Markell
Carvel State Office Bldg.
820 N. French Street, 12th Fl.
Wilmington, DE 19801

Re: Urging Creation of Multi-jurisdictional Task Force to Address Crime

Dear Governor Elect Markell:

I write you in accordance with the motion passed by New Castle County Council on January 13, 2009, wherein it was requested that I send this letter, on behalf of Council, urging creation of the above-referenced task force based upon the concerns outlined below.

As you are aware, with murder rates at an all-time high and the number of shootings continually on the rise, the residents of New Castle County and Wilmington are on edge after experiencing a year of unprecedented crime in 2008. With two local high schools respectively experiencing a shooting and a lock-down within the past week, the violence shows no signs of decreasing in 2009. Already facing myriad challenges in raising their children and providing for their children's education, residents are justifiably worried about the safety of their families.

New Castle County Council is gravely concerned about this rising wave of violence and believes that the senselessness behind these crimes is fueled primarily by the illicit drug trade. There can be no denying that where open air drug markets exist, other crime will be practically inevitable.

There needs to be an immediate and unified strategy to confront the increase in crime in both the corporated and unincorporated areas of New Castle County. As President of New Castle County Council, I am writing on behalf of Council urging you and your administration to convene a Joint Emergency Police Task Force under your leadership for the purposes of attacking the problem of gun violence, school safety and open air drug dealing.

Council looks forward to your response on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Clark

President, New Castle County Council

Xc: Christopher Coons, New Castle County Executive
James M. Baker, Mayor for the City of Wilmington
The Honorable Members of New Castle County Council
Wendy R. Danner, Counsel to Council
Betsy Gardner, Clerk of Council