

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW DEBATED DURING NEXT "PHILADELPHIA TALKS" AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (November 19, 2007) – The National Constitution Center and *Philadelphia* magazine will host a timely conversation about the state's Right to Know law, as part of the "Philadelphia Talks" series. State Representatives **Babette Josephs** and **Josh Shapiro**, as well as *Philadelphia Inquirer* editor **Joseph Tanfani** will join in the debate on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. CBS 3's **Jim Osman** will moderate the discussion. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

This fall, the Pennsylvania General Assembly is debating whether and how to amend the state's Right to Know law, which is considered to be one of the most restrictive in the nation. With the Pennsylvania House and Senate debating, amending, and voting on the state's open records law, panelists will discuss how the laws should be used, what reforms may be on the horizon, and concerns that critics of the law have voiced.

Both Babette Josephs, who represents the 182nd district in Philadelphia County, and Josh Shapiro, who represents the 153rd in Montgomery County, have been advocates for legislative reform and have been at the forefront of this debate. Joseph Tanfani is an investigations editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He came to the *Inquirer* after a long career as a reporter at papers in Williamsport, Atlantic City and at the *Miami Herald*, where he shared a Pulitzer Prize for a voter fraud investigation that overturned a Miami mayoral election.

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ADD ONE/RIGHT TO KNOW

Jim Osman joined CBS 3's Eyewitness News team in October 2005. The three-time Edward R. Murrow and nine-time Emmy award winning investigative reporter came to CBS 3 from KNXV-TV in Arizona, where he had been an investigative reporter since 2002.

This program is part of "Philadelphia Talks," a series of unique discussions about the hottest issues confronting our region.

One of the most distinguished and most honored metropolitan monthly publications in the country, *Philadelphia* magazine was founded in 1908 as a quarterly illustrated magazine published by the Trades League of Philadelphia, and has been in continuous publication for more than 90 years. ***Philadelphia* magazine will be celebrating its hundredth anniversary in 2008.** Bought in 1946 by S. Arthur Lipson, the magazine has remained in continuous operation by the Lipson family. Current Chairman D. Herbert Lipson assumed the helm as publisher in 1961, and in 1986 the torch was passed to S. Arthur Lipson's grandson, David H. Lipson, Jr. In 2003, Marian Conicella was named publisher while David Lipson remains as president. *Philadelphia* magazine is a division of Metrocorp.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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