



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National  
Historical Park

143 S. Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office

215-597-0060 phone  
215-597-0042 fax

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## Independence National Historical Park Media Advisory – **REVISED**

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For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Jane Cowley, 215- 597- 0060

### Mayor Nutter will join Acting Superintendent Sidles to Open People's Plaza on Independence Mall

Mayor Michael Nutter will join Darla Sidles, Acting Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, to host Tom Caramanico of the Friends of Independence, Joseph Torsella, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, and Bill Moore, President and CEO of the Independence Visitor Center Corporation, for the grand opening of People's Plaza.

As part of the major reconstruction project on Independence Mall, and thanks to the generous contribution of the Friends of Independence, People's Plaza will open at 10 am on January 14, 2008. This area on the Mall celebrates the First Amendment and provides a highly visible space for groups that choose to gather in the park. The Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting will join the event for the signing of the first approved permit for a public assembly on People's Plaza.

**What:** Press Event to open People's Plaza, Independence Mall

**When:** Monday, January 14, 10:00 – 10:45 am

**Where:** Independence Mall, corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Lewis, one of the country's most esteemed experts on the First Amendment, will share his latest work on the importance of freedom of expression, *Freedom for the Thought That We Hate*, later that evening at the National Constitution Center. Lewis will discuss how our First Amendment rights were created and reveal a story of hard choices surrounding one of America's great founding ideas. Moderating the conversation will be Chris Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, PA, was created by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1948. Independence covers almost 54 acres in Philadelphia's Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United States. The park is open daily with the exception of Christmas day. A visit to Independence National Historical Park should start at the Independence Visitor Center, located at 6<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. Here, visitors can pick up a park brochure, park map, and free timed tickets for guided tours of Independence Hall. For more information visit the park's website, [www.nps.gov/inde](http://www.nps.gov/inde).

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