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UPTOWNSTANDARD.COM

By Tom MacDonald,
WHYY

Larry Krasner believes the high-quality SEPTA cameras will help lead to more arrests and convictions.

Four months into 2023, Philadelphia's homicide rate remains below 2022's record-setting pace. District Attorney Larry Krasner said he was pleased to report the numbers during his weekly news conference. "There were 129 homicides year to date. Last year on the same day, there were 151," Krasner said Monday morning. "That is a reduction of 22 homicides. It's a

reduction of 15% as we compare day-for-day." Philadelphia saw 8% fewer homicides in 2022 than in 2021, according to an analysis of Philadelphia Police Department data from the Office of the Controller. The city recorded 516 homicides, fewer than the record-high 562 homicides it recorded the year prior.

Despite that modest progress over what was a historically high number of homicides in 2022, Krasner said the number of recent incidents on SEPTA is intolerable.

"It's utterly unacceptable

that people feel any level of fear about gun violence when they are simply using public transit to get around."

Krasner had a warning for those who would commit a crime on SEPTA: "For anybody who is contemplating engaging in criminal activity or violence on SEPTA, you're going to get caught," he said. "The camera system that is available in stations and on public transit now is extremely sharp even for crimes that do not occur on SEPTA." Krasner said mass transit should be a safe haven for Philadelphians and visitors,

and warned potential criminals that the vehicles and stations are constantly being monitored.

"It's my hope, obviously, that people engage in no criminal activity, certainly no violence. But you're going to do it except that we're going to have your face up on a screen when we get to trial and they're going to put your face in a jail cell. That's how this is going to go."

THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - 4th IR

By R.S. Broker

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is in its infancy and is already more reliable and smarter than its human creators. It doesn't need sleep or rest. It never forgets how to do the task it was created to do. Only food it needs as an energy source (electric/gas/solar etc.) And its expected to take over so many jobs like Retail Services, Security/Military personnel, and Taxi/Truck Drivers, etc. For example, UBER is worth over \$50 Billion USD. However, what Uber makes from fares isn't enough to pay for its expenses. The reason why its worth so much money even though it barely makes profits is because UBER plans to have its cars autonomous in the next 10 years. Yes, they expect their cars to be self driving. That means there will be no people needed by UBER to drive cars, which means the operational cost decrease by 60%

Side note-to answer one of my readers (and I appreciate the support), the stock market is not a scam. Yes, it can be manipulated, but it can't be rigged. That's because, no company wants to go through a recession. But with UBER worth over \$50 billion dollars, without making money, I can see why it seem skeptical. However, the stock market is "forward thinking" because it likes to project what the companies are worth in a few years

This all comes back to the 4th Industrial Revolution. Incase you forgotten, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is the current and developing environment in which disruptive technologies and trends such as the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) are changing the way the people of today live and work. Technology and medicine are making life easier for mankind. For example, your

phone has a significant amount of AI technology. You can tell it to turn on your car, you can make a video and post it to the gram. You can do banking, buy some mutual funds and investing in crypto and do research in fantasy football. Another part of this 4th revolution (A.I. takeover) will be the digital asset space. Ever heard of KYC? Know your customer? How about KYC, Know Your Crypto. It's all about the applications. What does the digital asset do? Who is running the company? Do you like the product? These are the questions you should ask and then do research before buying some of these cryptos. I do know one thing - NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY... But you must know what you're buying. What is happening in Crypto reminds me of what happened in the DOT.com bubble- when internet-based startup companies were way overvalued. For example, PETS.com and World.com was valued in the billions, but was losing money year over year. But what came out of the DOT.com bubble was Amazon, Oracle, and Google to name a few great companies.

I know it sounds crazy, but more Americans need to learn more about all the A.I. technologies current and soon coming to become part of our everyday lives. Create a strategy on how we are going to move in the future. No more of the "you get your tax return and instead of putting it in your business idea, you buy a Gucci purse" mentality. Or making stupid moves like buying the brand-new Charger "2023-2024 black on black got your name on it" with the \$4,000 down and \$770 a month for 72 months to improve your drip. Instead buy a stock and putting it in a DRIP (look it up what's a DRIP on Investopedia). Improve your mind, because A.I. is here.

The goal is to win, not just to look like you're winning. Most of us talk about working hard, but we never talk about working smart. Let's start working smart and have a gameplan for our kids' future. If you want to invest, please talk to your local bank or a financial advisor. Whether your 20 or 60, a new transfer of wealth is upon the horizon. This isn't just the USA going through a change. The universe is... It won't be easy,

but you never know until to try. Oh, and don't forget to follow me on IG or YouTube at @TheGetMoneyShow. Believe in yourself, believe in your dreams, and always remember money a'int just green. We are not financial advisors or giving out financial recommendations. Also note the NFT ART/MUSIC coming soon. If you have any questions please reach me at rawstreet-broka@gmail.com

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EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: PHILLY CITY COUNCIL ZEROS IN ON EFFORTS TO CURB YOUTH VIOLENCE

By Tom McDonald, WHYY

The hearing featured a common thread centered around the need for better education and job opportunities to help break the cycle of violence.

Philadelphia City Council held a hearing on the problem of gun violence Monday morning as the city has seen nearly 500 people have been shot so far this year—99 of those victims have died.

The hearing at City Hall focused specifically on violence involving young people.

Councilmember Jamie Gauthier started the hearing by talking about spending time in the emergency room comforting a family after the shooting death of a recreation center worker last September.

“As a mother of two young Black boys myself, I am deeply concerned by the growing amount of youth becoming entangled in the violence epidemic,” Gauthier said. “The number of shooting victims under the age of 18 has steadily grown since 2015, from 6.3% to

9.6%. At the same time, the percentage of young people arrested for gun violence tripled between 2017 and 2022.”

Once young people have been involved in the criminal justice system, Gauthier said the city needs to do more work to prevent future violence outbreaks.

“Youth who are adjudicated delinquent for gun crimes are not given real support to get out of the legal system or address rehabilitation and accountability,” said Kendra VandeWater of the group YEAH Philly. “Core programs are solely focused on punishment, and the

same people are cycling in and out.”

Kimberly Ali of the city’s Office of Children and Families offered some short-term solutions to the problem.

“We need to be more intentional with family engagement, much like we do on the child welfare side to keep parents engaged we have to mirror that on the juvenile justice side.”

First Deputy Police Commissioner John Stanford said the city will work hard this summer to improve quality of life issues. That includes making sure pools and recreation centers are

safe. He said the police department’s community relations unit will work to engage young people across the city through the Police Athletic League. Summer block parties and other events are also planned to engage and entertain young people in the city, Sanford said.

Others that spoke at the hearing called for better employment and educational opportunities to deter youth from violence and crime.

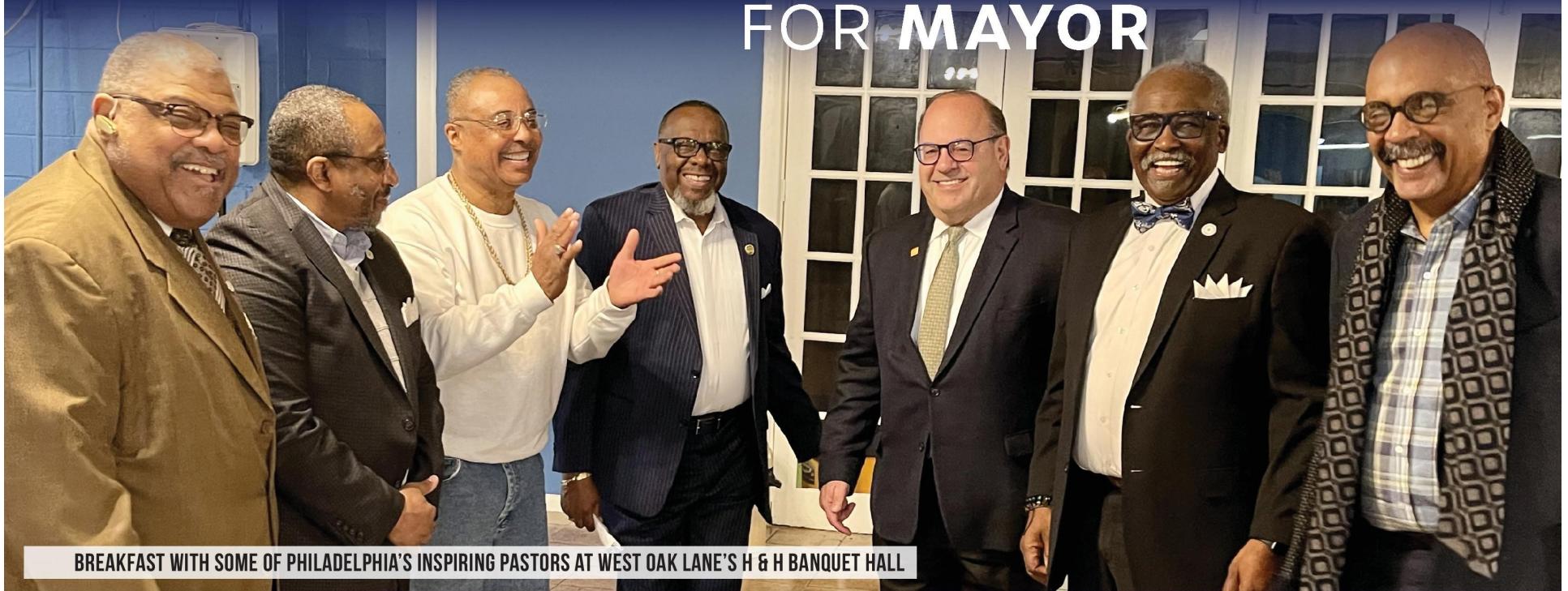


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“Philadelphia is facing a public safety crisis and a crisis of leadership. It’s time to work together and get real results. I won’t stop working until Philadelphians in every neighborhood have an opportunity to thrive.”

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CITY HALL PROTEST CALLS ON PHILLY TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS



By Tom McDonald,
WHYY

The students delivered petitions to both the mayor and City Council calling for fair reviews of charter schools, especially in Black and brown neighborhoods.

Several hundred students and teachers, mostly from Black and brown families, gathered outside City Hall Thursday morning alongside a five-foot-tall stack of petitions. They came together to call on city and school district leaders to support charter schools in Philadelphia.

Markida Ross is a parent of several current and former

charter school students. She said the schools are important to the survival of the city.

“I don’t want anyone or anything to threaten the future of our charter schools that provide safe and joyful and awesome educational opportunities for our children,” Ross said.

Elijah Frazier is a student at Freire Charter in Center City. He said his education

at the college prep school helped him make it into college, with assistance preparing the financial aid paperwork among other things.

“Charter schools are special, and I feel if they were closed down or cut back due to funding it would be a disservice to the people of Philadelphia,” he said. Frazier spoke about how much he enjoyed his educational experience and the support he’s received during his journey.

He said his school “creates a safe learning environment for all of us. They also have a mediation program that gets students involved in helping keep us calm and preventing violence. The whole school is like a family. Teachers support you inside and outside the classroom.”

Parent Shereda Cromwell told the group she was afraid for the future of charter schools when a new administration comes in next year.

“Redlining started 90 years ago but it’s happening again today to Black and brown communities in Philadelphia,” Cromwell said. “It’s called educational redlining when the school board closes down schools in mostly Black and brown communities. That is educational redlining people.”

The petition calls on the mayor and school board not to restrict charter school enrollment, and be fair and equitable when it comes to reviewing charter schools.

Protesters called for charter school fairness at a rally at City Hall on April 20, 2023. (Tom McDonald/WHYY News)

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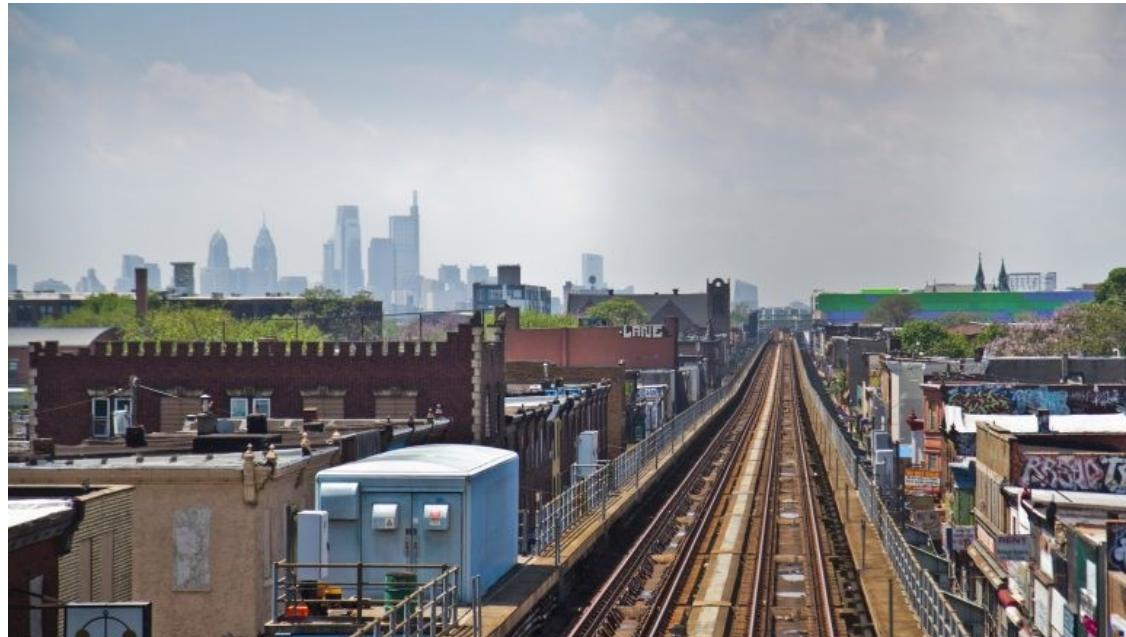
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PHILLY GETS POOR GRADE ON AIR QUALITY IN NEW REPORT

The American Lung Association's findings for the 16-county Philadelphia area give the region a failing grade for a high number of ozone days.



By Tom McDonald, WHYY

The American Lung Association didn't have much positive to report in its evaluation of air quality in the 16-county Philadelphia region. The 24th annual State of the Air report did find "the new

best-ever marks for ozone and long-term measures of fine particle pollution," said ALA's chief mission officer Deborah Brown. But on the whole, the results were not so good. "The number of unhealthy days for ozone smog continues to earn an 'F' grade, and

the 24-hour measure of particle pollution in the area earned a 'D' grade with the number of unhealthy days remaining unchanged in this year's report when compared to last year," Brown said.

Even for those with healthy

lungs, ground level ozone and particle pollution can be dangerous. "Breathing these pollutants in can cause asthma attacks, respiratory and cardiovascular harm, including heart attacks and stroke and even early death," she said.

Despite its shortcomings, the region isn't the worst area in the country.

"When you look at ozone, for example, we rank 28th most polluted. Last year we were 29th. So we did improve," Brown said. "If you look at the Philadelphia metro area for the short term particle pollution, we ranked 55th last year. [This year], we tied for 44th. So we have a better ranking this year. And then if you look at year round particle pollution, we ranked this year 46th most polluted and last year we were tied for 18. So that is significantly

better."

As for individual counties, Camden County surpassed Delaware County as the most polluted county in the area for particulate matter in the latest report.

Brown said the main takeaway from the report is that everyone, especially those who are pregnant, have asthma, or other lung diseases, needs to monitor air quality on a daily basis. If it's a poor air quality day, she said try not to exercise outside, roll up your car windows, and put air conditioners on to recirculate.

File photo: Looking out at the Philadelphia skyline from the Allegheny SEPTA station in Kensington. (Kimberly Paynter/WHYY)



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UP AND COMING UPTOWNS

By EJ Holt

Back with another edition of Up and Coming Uptowners. Today I had the pleasure of speaking with a woman whose business is absolutely essential in the community. You can't have a community without homes. Right? With Lisa Risco MBA, homes, or real estate to be exact, is exactly what she deals in. Lisa has been a licensed real estate professional since 2007. Certified Negotiation Expert, Accredited Buyers Representative, Senior Real Estate Specialist, Accredited Luxury Home Specialist are just some of the titles that she holds. Lisa has had her Brokers license since 2014 and to this day she continues to educate clients on how to achieve their real estate goals. But don't listen to me, let her tell you:

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your business:

Good morning Mr. Holt, Thanks for the opportunity to be able to share information about my business with the public and your audience.

I am Lisa Y. Risco MBA, Associate Broker, Real Estate has been my passion for many years, and I have been licensed in real estate since 2007. I am a retired Registered Nurse and raised my family with that fulfilling career for many years as well. I was born and raised in the Mt. Airy section of the city. I currently live in Montgomery County. I have 2 adult children and a grandson who all live on the west coast. I am an avid reader, I love line dancing and sharing my knowledge with those in need.

I am the owner of the Risco Group. We are a group of real estate professionals that operate out of

the Keller Williams Main Line office. We are a small team of ladies whose primary focus is to provide our knowledge and experience in helping average people navigate the often-complicated process of real estate transactions. We help people make smart decisions in real estate! We assist families in increasing generational wealth, handling the affairs of properties after the death of a family member, assist seniors in downsizing from their large family home to a home they can age in place at, assist people in becoming their own landlord by investing in property, and of course helping people increase their net worth by owning property to build equity, reducing tax liability via homeownership. What made you decide to start your real estate business?

My father was a real estate consultant and investor for many years helping people navigate a system that was not designed to be as we say now "user friendly". I grew up learning the language and hearing of the many "deals" as my dad would call them, all of my life. He always said, "Get your education and no one can take it away from you." So early in life I did just that.

Then in my mid 30's I shifted my mindset from helping people in a medical arena to helping people make "Smart decisions in real estate."

What services do you provide?

Real estate consulting
How to sell property
How to buy property
How to invest in property

Who is your target consumer?

Our target consumers are those that are seeking knowledge about any of the services and

processes involved with real estate. We enjoy working with everyday people who need our help.

What makes your business stand out over others?

Good questions! We are a relationship focused business, we build rapport, learn motivations and what you are really seeking to achieve so that we can strategize the best plan of action to get people to their goals. Our clients become our family and we build a lifelong relationship. 73% of our business is from past clients and people we have helped over the years.

Where do you want to take this business? What

is the goal?

I want the Risco Group to continue to be relevant for the average person! With many changes in the Philadelphia market and its surrounding counties, causing a shift in feasibility of homeownership. I am committed to being a source of knowledge to help everyone get a piece of the pie!

Why is your business going to succeed?

We don't judge or have limits on who we work with. Many people in this business focus on specific criteria that must meet a financial threshold to be helped. I have found that we don't

have those same thresholds; if you come to us for assistance, no matter the return, we will either assist you or point you in the right direction for the help you need!

Where can you be reached?

The Risco Group can be reached at the following: (215)768-8065 Email Lisa@riscosells.com www.theriscogroup.com Find us on FB and IG at @Riscosells

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DR. DESHAWNDA WILLIAMS FOR CITY COUNCIL-AT-LARGE

A professional portrait of Dr. Deshawnda Williams. She is a Black woman with curly red hair, wearing a white collared shirt and a pearl necklace. She is smiling warmly at the camera.

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KRASNER ASKS COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL \$7 MILLION TO TACKLE RISE IN RETAIL THEFT AND CARJACKINGS



DA Larry Krasner pointed the finger at city police for a rise in retail thefts that has caused several businesses to close in the city.

By Tom MacDonald
In a hearing before members of Philadelphia City Council Tuesday, District Attorney Larry Krasner said

he doesn't understand why there isn't more prosecution of retail thefts. Multiple Wawa stores have closed in recent months, but Krasner said that's not due to increasing theft.

He said stores are not using private security or stopping people for minor thefts and asked, "why some of them would take videos of people leaving rather than stop them." He said police cannot go after retail theft when

they don't have the personnel to deal with the crime that is going on in retail establishments.

He asked council members for an additional \$7 million in funding to better address retail theft as well as a rise in carjacking incidents. Councilmember James Harnity, who lives in Kensington, urged police to take action against those stealing from stores.

"We have no stores, there's no place for us to shop. That leads me to believe they are repeat offenders, they need to be charged, I'm sorry I just don't get it," Harnity said.

Councilmember Cindy Bass told Krasner that many cases of retail theft are going unchecked and that retail stores are continuing to close because of thefts. Krasner replied that police are able to write a summary

offense, but they aren't doing it. He said retailers are not going after people who steal less than \$500 dollars in merchandise because the summary offense is little more than a traffic ticket in many situations.

"Obviously, we know the struggles that PPD is having with staffing. It's happening all over the country with police," Krasner said.

"Police can respond. They have adequate staffing.

They can respond. But we all know the truth, which is they're trying to put out fires as much as possible. And this ain't the biggest fire."

"They are quality of life measures that include going vigorous after retail theft which has never been done in the city, going after home and deed theft, and going vigorously after the kind of government accountability and public integrity that means so much in the lives

of Philadelphians."

Bass and Krasner went back and forth about specific cases and the conversation got heated at times. "To me, it feels as if there's not the level of prosecution and support that the citizens of Philadelphia need coming out of your office," Bass said.

Krasner replied that it was an election year and he understood the complaints of elected officials who are running for their positions. The city budget hearings will continue through the month with virtually every city department coming before city council to discuss their spending plans.

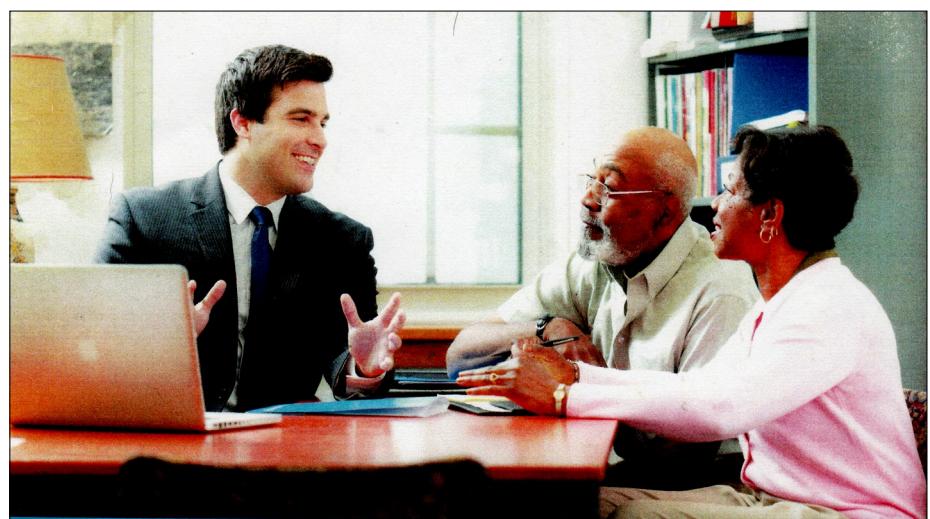
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