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October 24, 2005

Scott Morgan, President
Morgan Quitno Press
P.O. Box 1656
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mr. Morgan,

As Prosecutor of Camden County, N.J., I was appointed by the governor to serve as the chief law enforcement official in our county of 500,000 residents. Camden County encompasses 37 municipalities, including the City of Camden. Over the past three years, I have worked closely with the Camden Police Department as well as a litany of individuals and agencies from law enforcement, government and the community to address Camden's public safety problem.

Last November, your organization dubbed Camden "America's Most Dangerous City," basing that designation on 2003 crime statistics. I anticipate that you will release another report this November, and unfortunately, I expect Camden will once again be at or near the top of the "Most Dangerous" list. Once again, the rankings will be based on old data.

Given the impact the dubious distinction has made on Camden, I felt compelled to contact you in advance of this year's report. I hope that you seriously consider the negative ramifications of your report on this struggling city.

Prior to the ranking, the state committed \$175 million in funding to revitalize Camden, using that money to leverage hundreds of millions more in private investment. The revitalization effort, authorized by state law, spawned the most expansive redevelopment effort in the city in decades. A new health care center was constructed downtown. A developer committed to the largest housing, retail and recreational project in city history.

But Camden suffered significant setbacks in the wake of the publicity surrounding the No. 1 ranking. A developer pulled out of a deal to build a hotel on the city's Delaware River waterfront. A number of other developers expressed doubts about their projects as well, but fortunately have hung on. The number of applications dropped dramatically at Rutgers University's campus in the city.

With that in mind, I urge you to point out in your report and the publicity surrounding it that the ranking is based on data that, in some cases, is nearly two years old. Camden will be ranked in November 2005 based on statistics from as long ago as January 2004.

Therefore, I urge you to include in your report and publicity a passage about Camden such as the one you incorporated into your March 2005 press release about Nevada being ranked the most dangerous state. It states, "While our study is hardly good news for Nevada, there is a bright spot: the state's violent crime rate dropped last year, perhaps signaling a new, downward trend in crime for Nevada."

There is a bright spot for Camden, too. I am heartened to report that we have made substantial progress in 2005. Consider:

- Uniform Crime Report Part I Offenses through the first eight months of 2005 were **down 21 percent** year-to-date from 2004. These are the UCR statistics provided to and audited by the New Jersey State Police, which they will forward to the FBI.
- **Murders were down 44 percent**, from 34 to 19.
- The Camden Police Department has instituted **crime mapping and the CompStat management technique** to identify crime hot spots, devise strategies to address them, and hold commanders accountable for the effectiveness of those strategies.
- The department is in the midst of an **ambitious reorganization**, based on recommendations by national experts who form a Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by New Jersey Attorney General Peter C. Harvey.
- Organizations that have facilities in Camden and their own police departments, from transit agencies like NJ Transit to universities such as Rutgers University-Camden, have bolstered their presence in the city. They are working together, as well as with private security forces at hospitals and corporations, to coordinate patrols and **supplement the police department's visibility**, particularly in the Camden's downtown business district.
- A U.S. Marshal's Service Fugitive Task Force has **tracked down and arrested more than 300 violent offenders** with ties to Camden. Some have been caught in the city or in surrounding towns, while others were tracked and apprehended as far away as Puerto Rico. This sends the message that anyone who commits a crime in Camden will be held to account for their conduct.

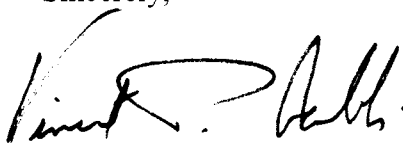
Your ranking, along with several other factors, has served as a catalyst for positive change. The report focused national attention on an issue that those of us who live here have known for some time – the unfortunate plight of the city and its law-abiding citizens. As painful as it was, the notoriety has helped coalesce the Camden Police Department, an array of law enforcement agencies at the county, state and federal levels, the Camden community and its neighbors to focus on the crime problem with new vigor and to find solutions. I strongly encourage you to report the progress we have made in 2005. It is my belief and hope that next fall, Camden will be off your list of

America's most dangerous cities. The real winners will be the citizens who live, work and visit in Camden.

I am available to discuss this matter further with anyone from your organization. I can be reached through my Administrative Assistant, Julie Benegar, at (856) 225-8466.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent P. Sarubbi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "S".

Vincent P. Sarubbi
Camden County Prosecutor