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MEDIA ADVISORY

Young Political Leaders from N. Ireland to Visit Philadelphia and Delaware County; Delegates to Attend July 4th Celebrations, Meet with Delaware County Officials

PHILADELPHIA – Seven young political leaders from Northern Ireland will visit the Philadelphia area over the 4th of July holiday as part of a twelve day political exchange program organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). Composed of delegates from across the political spectrum in Northern Ireland, the delegation will be the first ACYPL delegation from Northern Ireland to visit the United States since the reconstitution of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the restoration of local governance in Northern Ireland in May 2007. The delegation kicked off its program with meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. and will arrive in Pennsylvania on the heels of a visit to Arkansas. While in the Philadelphia area, they will be hosted by attorney Louis Martini, Jr. of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and Nancy White, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Delaware County, both of whom are alumni of ACYPL exchanges.

ACYPL first began exchanging delegations with Northern Ireland in 1999, a year after the ratification of the Good Friday Agreement. With this exchange program, ACYPL furthers its forty plus year mission of increasing cross-cultural understanding, bringing together young political leaders from places that have experienced bitter conflict and opening lines of communication between young U.S. political leaders and their counterparts in countries around the world.

Who: Young political leaders from across the political spectrum in Northern Ireland, including:

- **Ms. Judith E. Cochrane** (Alliance Party) - Member, Castlereagh Borough Council
- **Mr. Mark Cosgrove** (Ulster Unionist Party) - Director of Ireland, Redhead Holdings Ltd
- **Mr. Richard W. Cushnie** (Non-Affiliated) - First Secretary, British Embassy Dublin
- **Ms. Michelle McIlveen, MLA** (Democratic Unionist Party) - Member for Strangford, Northern Ireland Assembly
- **Mr. Martin Reilly** (Social Democratic & Labour Party) - Member, Derry City Council
- **Mr. Desmond M. Ward** (Sinn Féin) - Member, Banbridge District Council
- **Mr. Hugh Widdis** (Non-Affiliated) - Legal Advisor, Northern Ireland Assembly

What: Program highlights will include:

- Attending the 2007 Sunoco Welcomes America Festival's "Party on the Parkway" and "Sweet Sounds of Liberty Concert and Fireworks" as well as the Southwest Airlines 4th of July Parade.
- Meetings and a press conference with members of the Delaware County Council on July 5th at the Delaware County Government Center Building.
- Meetings with officials from the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives and Select Greater Philadelphia, the regional economic development arm of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

When: July 4, 6, 7, 2007 (Philadelphia)
July 5, 2007 (Delaware County)

Why: The purpose of this program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels.
- Give the delegates a new perspective on American culture.
- Allow the delegates to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their American counterparts.

About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members

of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO ATTEND THE DELAWARE COUNTY PRESS CONFERENCE, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT TRISH COFIELD AT (610) 891-4943 OR cofielt@co.delaware.pa.us. TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES AT ANOTHER TIME OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-857-0999 x 27 or mgarretson@acypl.org.

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