



CONTACT: Brian Rossiter
Senior publicist
(215) 351-2066
brossiter@whyy.org

**PENNSAUKEN, N.J., A FOCUS OF DOCUMENTARY
ON REVITALIZATION OF NATION'S OLDER "FIRST" SUBURBS**

Two-part Series to Be Broadcast at 9 p.m. Oct. 8

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 24, 2009 — *The New Metropolis*, a documentary series that explores the rise, fall and possible rebirth of America's older "first" suburbs, spotlights racial integration in Pennsauken, N.J.

The Greater Philadelphia suburb will be the focus of the two-part series' second episode. Pennsauken is featured for its unique work in reversing a new suburban trend, "resegregation." The town and its residents came together to build a vibrant, integrated community.

The series premieres at 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, on WHYY-TV with the second episode to be broadcast at 9:30 p.m.

Produced by award-winning filmmaker Andrea Torrice, *The New Metropolis* is the first public examination devoted to the issues facing many suburban towns. Considered embodiments of the American dream, the first suburbs blossomed after World War II, bolstered by economic prosperity and government support. Now, many struggle with the same challenges as urban centers: growing poverty, white flight, crumbling infrastructure, abandonment, and the continual lure of newer communities farther from cities.

"This story is all around us, no matter where we live," Torrice said. "The fate of America's original suburbs is a cautionary tale for every community, old or new. This film addresses the reality now facing millions of Americans in hundreds of communities. It offers hope, new ideas and everyday heroes."

Narrated by actor Peter Coyote, the first episode, "A Crack in the Pavement," follows the stories of two public officials from Ohio and their challenges in repairing aging infrastructure and keeping residents and business from leaving — often for newer suburban communities farther from the urban core. The second episode, "The New Neighbors," profiles two ordinary people, one black and one white, who made racial integration the centerpiece of revitalizing Pennsauken. It is narrated by actress Ruby Dee.



“These films capture a story which has not yet been told and asks the difficult question that all older communities are facing: How do we revitalize and reinvent ourselves in the 21st century?” said Jonathan Schmidt, director of the Southeast Pennsylvania First Suburbs Project.

For more information about the series, detailed press packet, community screenings, watch parties and other events, visit www.thenewmetropolis.com or call Torrice Productions at (513) 751-7050.

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