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For Immediate Release:
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When: Monday, December 10, 2007
When: 12 Noon
Who: Maureen Faulkner and Michael Smerconish, co-authors of the new book, *Murdered by Mumia: A Life Sentence of Loss, Pain, and Injustice*, and Governor Ed Rendell
What: Charity luncheon and book signing
Where: The Philadelphia Union League — 140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA

Foundation for Slain Philadelphia Police Officer To Award Scholarship Grants To Murdered Victims' Children At a Luncheon for More Than 500

Author Donates \$170,000 of Book Advance to Charity Organization

(Philadelphia, Monday Dec. 10, 2007) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—The educational futures of some Philadelphia youths will be brighter on Monday, December 10th as attorney, radio talk show host, and print columnist **Michael Smerconish** hands over a \$170,000 book advance to the non-profit organization, **Justice for Police Officer Daniel Faulkner** at a charity luncheon and book signing event at the Union League. Smerconish will be unveiling the six-figure donation to Officer Faulkner's widow, **Maureen Faulkner**, who is the founder of the 501(c)3. Together, Maureen Faulkner and Smerconish have written ***Murdered by Mumia: A Life Sentence of Loss, Pain, and Injustice*** (The Lyons Press, an Imprint of Globe Pequot Press; December 9, 2007; ISBN: 978-1-59921-376-7; \$24.95, Hardcover), and 100% of their book proceeds will go to Maureen Faulkner's non-profit, which helps to educate victims' children of Philadelphia.

The luncheon at the Union League is sold out with upwards of 500 people scheduled to attend, including Pennsylvania **Governor Ed Rendell**, who was Philadelphia's District Attorney at the time Danny Faulkner was murdered. Governor Rendell will be on-hand for a photo-opportunity when Smerconish's check is donated to Maureen Faulkner.

Maureen Faulkner founded Justice for Police Officer Daniel Faulkner after the murder of her husband on December 9, 1981. Danny Faulkner was gunned down while conducting a routine traffic stop, and **Mumia Abu-Jamal**, a cab driver and former Black Panther, was convicted and sentenced to death for the young officer's slaying. After 25 years, Abu-Jamal is still on Death Row and his case is currently under review in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Maureen Faulkner proclaims that, "over the past quarter century, Abu-Jamal has made hundreds of thousands of dollars on the blood of my husband—writing books, delivering radio commentaries—and with the help of Hollywood and the political elite (who I doubt know all of the facts surrounding this case), has even been morphed into a cause célèbre. It's sickening to think that Mayor John Street once opened Philadelphia's City Hall, bearing gifts to the Mumia supporters of France. But Monday, December 10th will be a day that Michael Smerconish and I can open the right doors for some unfortunate children. For once, the tragic story of my husband's ending will be turned around with all of my and Michael Smerconish's proceeds going to help educate Philadelphia victims' children. Why doesn't the media ask Abu-Jamal where his money has gone over these past 25 years?"

Maureen Faulkner continues, "So many people needlessly lose their lives in my hometown and after the initial news buzz their families are left alone to pick up the pieces." Smerconish added, "Maureen has founded the educational fund to help the survivors and to let them know that as victims themselves of murder they are part of an extended family. That's why I have given all of my book proceeds to help her cause, and we graciously thank the 500 guests attending the luncheon, as well as our Governor for encouraging us to move forward and finally commemorate Danny Faulkner in the right light. Monday, December 10th will not simply be another day that the memory of Danny Faulkner coincides with the selfish cries of a murderer."

For more information about the event or *Murdered by Mumia*, please call Khuong Phan or Justin Loeber at 212-260-7576; Media@mouthPublicRelations.com or visit www.MouthPublicRelations.com.

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