

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

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## **Eight St. Louis Police Officers Disciplined**

*Mokwa Suspends and Demotes Officers Involved in Procedural and Ethical Violations*

Eight police officers from the Metropolitan Police Department's Vice and Narcotics Division have been disciplined today after being accused of providing family members with Cardinal baseball tickets for the 2006 post-season games that were seized from scalpers.

Chief Joseph Mokwa will suspend these eight officers without pay for the next two weeks until the Police Board meets. At that time, he will recommend that each of these officers be reduced in rank for no less than a year, which will negatively impact their pay. The disciplinary action was taken against these officers because they violated Department ethical standards and evidence handling procedures.

The Department's Internal Affairs Division began investigating the officers in early November 2006 after receiving a complaint from a citizen that his confiscated tickets were inappropriately used during the World Series.

"I am deeply troubled by the admitted behavior of these officers," stated Colonel Joseph Mokwa, Chief of Police. "When the foundation of trust is violated by even one member of this Department, it compromises the integrity of the entire police force, and I won't stand for that." Mokwa added that he is sympathetic to mistakes, but not ones that mitigate the trust of the community.

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In addition to the eight officers suspended, three officers will be disciplined for internal procedural violations, one lieutenant and three sergeants will be disciplined for failure to supervise. The investigation into these violations is ongoing. All Department members involved in this situation will be transferred out of the Vice and Narcotics Department and into different areas of the force.

Yesterday, the Department met with the Circuit Attorney's Office to review the investigation. The Circuit Attorney will review this situation and make her recommendation on whether criminal charges will be filed. The Circuit Attorney has the complete cooperation of this Department.

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