

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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Metropolitan Police Announce New Crime Initiatives

Releases 2006 Crime Statistics, Overall Crime Up 5.8 Percent

At today's regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, Colonel Joseph J. Mokwa, Chief of Police, unveiled the Department's new initiatives and reported the 2006 crime statistics for the City of St. Louis.

Chief Mokwa announced the formation of the Department's new **Crime Suppression Unit (CSU)**, designed to serve as a swift, tactical unit that will identify problem hot spots and aggressively go after specific criminals. The CSU, made up of more than 50 uniform and plain clothes police officers, will move from neighborhood to neighborhood throughout the City. "This unit will provide the Department with a powerful nucleus of officers that have the flexibility to implement the Department's aggressive, anti-crime strategies," stated Chief Mokwa. "We want to send a very clear message to the entire community: We will deploy all necessary resources to quickly apprehend people who break the law." The CSU has been in development since mid-2006 to support various new and existing policing strategies.

The Chief also reported on the creation of the Department's **Crime Analysis Unit (CAU)**. The CAU, staffed by a combination of commissioned and civilian crime analysts, will utilize state-of-the-art geographical mapping information systems to more thoroughly map crime and detect patterns and hot spots.

During the initial startup of this unit, which began in mid-summer, the CAU provided critical analytical crime data to three districts: districts three, four and six. "The CAU will serve as a powerful, proactive tool for Commanders to provide them the ability to quickly analyze large amounts of data and create interventions to effectively target criminal activity," stated Chief Mokwa. "We will be providing this level of insight to all of our District Commanders which will

allow us the ability to accurately target hot spots, so we can apprehend offenders quicker than ever before.”

In addition to the new initiatives, Chief Mokwa also recently reorganized his command staff to rejuvenate the Department. There has been a change in leadership at all three area patrol divisions. “The Department, like any organization from time to time, reviews its internal structures and makes changes that can provide renewed energy and fresh perspectives at all levels of the organization,” Chief Mokwa added.

The Chief also announced that senior commanders from the Department were meeting with members of State Probation and Parole to discuss the possibility of creating an adult version of the “Night Watch” program. “Night Watch” is a successful partnership between the Police Department and the Juvenile Court that pairs police officers with juvenile officers to make unscheduled nightly home visits to ensure high-risk juveniles are complying with their mandated curfews. The Department is also exploring the option of expanding the juvenile program from three to five days a week.

“The Board of Police Commissioners is strongly in support of the new initiatives outlined by Chief Mokwa,” stated Colonel Chris Goodson, President of the Board of Police Commissioners. “This Department is committed to serve as the catalyst for coordinating the efforts of all the agencies involved in making sure St. Louis is a healthy and safe community.” The Department is also working on several additional cutting-edge initiatives and will be releasing more information in the coming months.

Chief Mokwa also reported the 2006 crime statistics at the Board meeting. While the city reported a 5.8 percent increase in overall crime, the Chief pointed out that during the last six months of the year the Department had been successful at addressing the rising level of violent crime compared to the first six months of the year. According to FBI crime statistics during the first six months, violent crime was up more than 10 percent, but because of aggressive reduction strategies over the second half of the year, violent crime at the end of the year was up only 3.4 percent, down by over 7 percent from mid-year reports.

The city reported a reduction in homicides compared to 2005: there were 129 homicides in 2006 and 131 in 2005.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS
PART ONE CRIME COMPARISON BASED ON UCR REPORTING
2005 VS. 2006

	2005	2006	Percentage Change
Homicide	131	129	-1.5 %
Rape	276	337	22.1%
Robbery	2,965	3,147	6.1%
Aggravated Assault	4,949	4,992	0.9%
Total Person Crime	8,321	8,605	3.4%
Burglary	7,213	8,510	18.0%
Larceny	22,857	23,552	3.0%
Vehicle Theft	8,146	8,645	6.1%
Arson	490	431	-12.0%
Total Property Crime	38,706	41,138	6.3%
Total Crime	47,027	49,743	5.8%

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