

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT- CITY OF ST. LOUIS

NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Isom Ends Expensive Badge Purchases

This month Chief Dan Isom ended a long-standing tradition of top-ranking police commanders taking their badges with them upon retirement. Today, he also announced that under his administration, the practice of buying expensive hand-crafted badges for those ranked Lieutenant Colonel and above will end.

The changes come after the Department recently purchased 5 hand-crafted badges for \$9936.20. The order violated the Department's own purchasing procedures, since the order was placed before the purchase order was issued by the Board. This violation left the Department obligated to pay for the badges, since the badges were delivered before the purchase order was even received. Chief Isom has already dealt with those responsible for the purchase, and made it clear that no purchase should be made in violation of the purchasing manual.

The Department has purchased hand-crafted badges for those ranking Lieutenant Colonel and above at least since 1950, however, today, Chief Isom announced that no further badge purchase of this type will be made and that he will seek out vendors that can provide high-quality badges at a much more reasonable cost. Chief Isom also pledged he will find a way to recoup the money paid for the recent badge order.

"This just one more practice of the Department that I looked at and knew had to be changed," said Chief Isom. "We have to be fiscally responsible and under my administration, we will be. Period. I have a lot of challenges ahead of me. There are historical practices in this Department that are broken. The people of St. Louis are counting on me to fix them, and as I find them, I will."

Chris Goodson, President of the Board of Police Commissioners said, "When we named Dan Isom Chief of Police, we made it clear that one of his top priorities would be to improve the business practices of this Department. We have full confidence that he will do that."

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