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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

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Chief Isom Presents Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Proposal
\$168 Million Budget Includes Moving More Officers to Street, Additional 911 Staff

Today at a Board of Police Commissioners meeting, Metropolitan Police Chief Dan Isom presented a proposed \$168 million budget for fiscal year 2010. The fiscal year begins July 1, 2009 and ends June 30, 2010.

“I wanted to present a true picture of the actual costs for the Department to function in a manner that best serves the citizens of St. Louis,” said Chief Isom. “I recognize that we have to make some cuts, and I wanted the Board and the people of the city of St. Louis to see some of the tough decisions that will have to be made to get this budget in line with our allocation.”

The City of St. Louis has allocated \$150.7 million for the Department for fiscal year 2010—an increase from the current fiscal year’s budget of \$148.1 million. The increase comes as many other city departments have been asked to reduce their budgets by 5%. “We’re grateful that the city has shown a commitment to making St. Louis safer and to making sure the Department has the means to function effectively, but we have a long way to go to get from \$150 million to \$168 million,” said Chief Isom.

Among the items proposed in the budget Chief Isom presented to the Board of Police Commissioners are the following:

- An additional \$2.65 million for police cars. In years past, this item has been among the first to be cut in order to bring the budget proposal in line with the allocation. More than 1/3 of the Department’s police cars now have more than 100,000 miles. By the end of 2009, the Department anticipates mileage on 1/2 of all police cars will exceed 100,000 miles.
- An additional \$2.1 million for civilian salaries. This will allow the Department to civilianize its Evidence Technician Unit and move the current ETU officers back to the street. This will also allow the Department to hire more employees for the 911 center. The center is currently understaffed by more than 20 employees.

- An additional \$1.4 million for communication services. The Department is in the midst of switching to an interoperable radio system that will allow police, fire, EMS and other city agencies to communicate in an emergency. The Department bears the responsibility for overseeing the system for each of these agencies. This additional funding will allow for support components for the system. This funding will also allow the Department to initiate reverse 911, which serves a tremendous benefit to citizens in communicating crucial emergency information.
- An additional \$3 million for a new Property Custody facility. Currently, seized, recovered and found property is located within headquarters, in the former prisoner processing and handling area. The Department is running out of space to store items, with property currently being stored inside jail cells. Audits of the area have called the space and storage methods “the most inefficient possible.” The overhaul of property custody will ensure that storage methods are proper, controlled and secure.

The budget proposal presented by the Chief includes more items than in years past, in part, because items that had previously been paid for with federal asset forfeiture dollars are included. The Department still anticipates the use of these monies, but Chief Isom wanted to present a clear picture of the items that are necessities and that should be budgeted for. His goal is to use asset forfeiture dollars for unforeseen expenses, or items that will enhance police service as opposed to items that are necessities to police service.

The Chief and his command staff will begin to make adjustments to the budget this week. The Department will likely receive final notification of its actual budget allocation from the City of St. Louis in April.

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