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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

November 15, 2012

**Three Canines and their Officer Partners Graduate from
Department's Canine School**

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis ("the department") will host a graduation ceremony on Friday, November, 16 at Police Headquarters, 1200 Clark Ave. at 11:00 a.m. in honor of three police officers and their canine partners who successfully completed the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Canine School.

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Canine School, located in north St. Louis County, is run by the department. In addition to the department's canines and their officer partners, the school is open to officers throughout the metropolitan area. Each canine is trained alongside his or her officer partner for 14 weeks and receives instruction in obedience, aggression, searching and at least one specialty such as explosives or narcotics.

Officer Jermaine Jackson has been a police officer with the department for more than 14 years. His new canine partner, "Barron Z" is a 3-year old male German Shepherd, who joins the department from the Czech Republic. Barron Z is trained in narcotics/patrol. The other officers graduating Friday are members of the Overland Police Department and the Granite City Police Department and their canines are also trained in narcotics/patrol.

Officers and their canine partners develop special bonds as each canine also lives with his or her Officer partner. Canines travel in specially equipped patrol vehicles with sophisticated temperature controls. The vehicles are also equipped with a special "bail out button" that allows the dogs to be released if his or her officer partner is under attack. The department's canines assist officers with suspect tracking, explosives, narcotics searches and other tasks, helping to solve and prevent crimes. The department's canine unit, formed in 1958, is one of the oldest and most well-respected canine units in the country.

WHO: Metropolitan Police Department's Canine School
WHAT: Graduation of Three Officers and their Canine Partners
WHEN: Friday, November 16 at 11 a.m.
WHERE: Police Headquarter, 1200 Clark Avenue

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