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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

November 30, 2010

**Chief Announces Plans to Form Additional Unit to Stabilize
Neighborhoods; Mobile Reserve Officers to be Deployed in the Interim**

Today Chief Dan Isom announced plans to form an additional unit to support patrol officers in neighborhoods that are experiencing spikes in violent crimes. The Metropolitan Police Department's ("the department") Crime Analysis Unit is working with Chief Isom to create a long-term action and deployment plan. In the interim, Chief Isom is deploying the department's Mobile Reserve Unit in an effort to increase visibility and decrease violent activity.

As compared to 2009, violent crimes so far this year have decreased more than 8%. As of November 30, 2010, there have been 128 UCR reportable homicides in St. Louis. While this is a slight decrease when compared to the 135 UCR reportable homicides there were at this time in 2009, there has been an increase in homicides in recent weeks. In the month of November, there have been 25 UCR reportable homicides compared to 15 UCR reportable homicides in November of 2009.

In addition to patrol officers, dozens of officers assigned to district Community Response Teams and the department's Special Operations Teams (which include the Gang Unit and the Narcotics Officers), have all been working to stabilize areas that have seen an increase in homicides. Today's announcement will result in additional measures to combat violent crimes.

Effective December 1, the department's Mobile Reserve Unit will begin supplemental patrol in the fifth and sixth police districts. The Mobile Reserve Unit was initially formed to supplement patrol, however over the years, budget cutbacks have caused the unit to decrease in size. Currently, the 21 officers assigned to the Mobile Reserve Unit respond to all hostage/standoff situations, execute nearly 200 search warrants per year and complete the rigorous training requirements mandated to maintain a Tier 1 rating according to federal standards, which is the highest possible rating.

With the exception of only the highest-risk search warrants (homicides and warrants related to the abuse or neglect of a child), Chief Isom has ordered the unit to immediately suspend all other activity and to instead focus on supplementing patrol in the fifth and sixth districts and assisting the existing patrol officers, Community Response

Teams and Special Operations Teams with stabilizing neighborhoods experiencing increases in homicides.

“The overwhelming majority of our homicides are being committed as a result of gang and drug activity,” said Chief Isom. “And while some of these people are choosing to lead these lifestyles, the fact is, they are often leading them in a neighborhood filled with people who are making no such choice....people who are hard-working, law-abiding citizens and who want their neighborhoods back.”

The Crime Analysis Unit is currently working to determine the specific areas-- down to the block, where permanent, additional deployment is most needed and will have the most impact. Armed with that information, Chief Isom plans to propose to the Board of Police Commissioners, the formation of a new unit with a sole focus of responding to and stabilizing areas experiencing increases in violence. Chief Isom expects to announce specific details regarding the name of the unit, staffing levels and a detailed deployment plan, within the next six weeks.

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