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**NEWS RELEASE**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

May 26, 2010

**Citizens Police Academy Graduation Set for Wednesday**

*Thirty St. Louis Citizens to Graduate After Completing 12-Week Course*

A Catholic priest, newspaper reporter, aspiring police officer and several St. Louis City business owners are among those set to graduate tonight from the Metropolitan Police Department's Citizens Academy class. The department will honor 30 individuals who have completed the course with a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 26 at 7 p.m. on the sixth floor of Police Headquarters located at 1200 Clark Avenue.

The 12-week course was designed to strengthen the bond between the department and the community. Some of the citizens belong to neighborhood watch groups and ward associations. Others say they simply wanted to learn more about how they can help police keep citizens safe.

Participants in the Citizens Academy had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the department through instruction in the department's history and structure, how the department predicts and analyzes crime patterns, gang intelligence, homicide investigations and community policing techniques. They also had the opportunity to interact with police canines and the police bomb robot, as well as tour the 911 center and use shooting simulators. Tonight's graduation is the culmination of their Academy class, but they will likely continue to be called upon by department employees, to serve as volunteers in various capacities.

**WHO:** Metropolitan Police Department  
**WHAT:** Citizens Academy Graduation  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 26 at 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Police Headquarters  
1200 Clark Avenue  
St. Louis, Mo 63103

**Reporters and photographers are welcome to attend.**

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