



PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

May 18, 2011

**Citizens Police Academy Graduation Tonight**

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

The largest class to date will graduate Wednesday, May 18 from the Metropolitan Police Department's Citizens Academy course. The department will honor 42 individuals who have completed the course with a graduation ceremony 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. Participants in the class said they wanted to learn more about how the Police Department works. Some of the class members are already active in neighborhood watch groups and wanted to continue to learn how to keep their neighborhoods safe and cooperate with police.

The Citizens Police Academy offers St. Louis city residents and business owners 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. Students in the Academy also have the opportunity to interact with police canines and the police bomb robot, as well as tour the 911 center and use shooting simulators. Wednesday's graduation is the culmination of the Academy class, but class members 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 18 at 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Police Headquarters  
1200 Clark Avenue

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

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