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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

July 24, 2014

Department Investigation Results in Criminal Charges Against Employee

Egregious Complaint Prompts Internal Affairs Investigation

St. Louis, Mo. – The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis’ Internal Affairs Division conducted both an internal and criminal investigation resulting in criminal charges being filed against a civilian employee of the Department. On July 11, 2014, the Circuit Attorney’s Office issued warrants for four counts of Forcible Sodomy and one count of Impersonating a Police Officer, against Michael Cornell, a 28-year old male of the 1500 block of Sells. On July 23, 2014, a Grand Jury indicted Cornell on four additional counts of Deviate Sexual Assault and one count of 3rd Degree Assault. A St. Louis Circuit Judge set bond at \$150,000.00, cash-only. Cornell remains jailed.

An Internal Affairs complaint was lodged against Michael Cornell in May of 2014. Investigators immediately began their investigation into allegations made against Cornell. The investigation revealed an abundance of evidence and culminated with a search warrant being executed at his residence on July 10, 2014.

Chief Sam Dotson said, “Criminal conduct by any employee will not be tolerated. When these allegations were brought to the Department’s attention, we took immediate action, initiated an investigation, and moved swiftly to seek justice for the victim and protect the community. We urge anyone who may have had contact with this individual to call Internal Affairs at 314-444-5405.”

Michael Cornell joined the Department as a Recruit in Training in August 2007 and resigned in December 2007. He was rehired by the Department in March 2008 as a civilian Processing Clerk in the Prisoner Processing Unit where he worked until he was suspended without pay in July 2014.

Once warrants are issued, inquiries relative to the case should be directed to the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney’s Office.

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