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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

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**Donation Funds In-Car Camera Pilot Program for
Metropolitan Police Department**

After receiving a \$100,000 donation from the St. Louis Police Foundation, the Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”), announced plans today to purchase and install 20 in-car audio/video cameras.

There are currently three patrol vehicles already equipped with the in-car cameras. The three vehicles, split among the North, Central and South Patrol Divisions, are being used for the final trial evaluation for the in-car camera program. They are equipped with cameras that are identical to the 20 cameras that will be installed by November of 2009. The 20 patrol vehicles that will receive these new cameras will be split among Districts and Units, so as to allow equal distribution throughout different areas of the city.

The cameras record audio and video and can be activated manually when officers press a button, or activated automatically when prompted by any one of the following events: when officers activate the patrol vehicle’s flashing red lights; when officers activate the patrol vehicle’s siren; when a patrol vehicle is involved in a collision; when a patrol vehicle exceeds a pre-set speed that will be determined by the department.

In-car cameras are invaluable tools since audio and video can be used as evidence to support the prosecution of a suspect. The audio and video from the cameras can also be extremely helpful in verifying or discrediting allegations of officer misconduct. A study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) examined the impact of in-car cameras and found an increase in the number of convictions in court, an increase in the number of guilty pleas prior to trial, increased officer attention to safety behind the wheel and a reduction in the number of citizen complaints lodged against officers.

Chief Dan Isom said, “These cameras will not only help to protect citizens and officers by recording exactly what’s said and done, but when used in court, they will also give everyday citizens a real-world picture of what our officers face day in and day out. We will continue to seek grant funding to expand this program in hopes of getting cameras in every patrol car in our fleet.”

Doug Albrecht, President of the St. Louis Police Foundation said, “The St. Louis Police Foundation is proud to help the department in implementing such important technology. The Foundation’s goal is to play a vital role in making St. Louis a safer city. In-car cameras are one more tool that will assist in doing just that.”

The St. Louis Police Foundation is a 501c3 organization formed in 2007 by Doug Albrecht, Chairman of The Bodley Group and Chris Goodson, President of The Goodson Company. In partnership with citizens, businesses and other charitable organizations, the Foundation provides support to the Department through monetary aid, services and goods to ensure the highest level of police service to the St. Louis community. In addition to in-car cameras, the Foundation has previously purchased a horse for Mounted Patrol, made improvements to the Canine Training Facility, assisted with providing air condition to the Police Academy’s training facility, provided under armor shirts for all officers and paid for the 2008 and 2009 Memorial Breakfasts which honor the memory of those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. More information about the St. Louis Police Foundation is available at www.stlouispolicefoundation.org.

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