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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

May 6, 2010

31 Recruits to Graduate from the St. Louis Police Academy
Recruit Class Funded by COPS Grant

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis ("the department") will hold a graduation ceremony for 31 new police officers on Thursday, May 6, 2010, at Harris-Stowe State University located at 3026 Laclede Ave. at 7 p.m.

After 28 weeks of rigorous physical training and classroom instruction, the recruits will become full-fledged police officers after taking an oath at graduation. Among those who will be sworn in as police officers is a 53-year-old recruit who chose to pursue a career in policing after spending many years in a corporate job. The class also includes recruits from as far away as California and New York who moved to St. Louis to become police officers. This marks a relatively rare occurrence as the overwhelming majority of St. Louis police recruits hail from Missouri or Illinois.

Recruit Class 09-01 entered the St. Louis Police Academy in October of 2009 after the department secured funding from the federal COPS grant. The recruits were initially scheduled to begin the Academy several months earlier, but their class was canceled after the department received its budget allocation and learned there was a shortfall of tens of millions of dollars. A few months later, the recruits learned their Academy class was back on after the department became one of few police agencies nationwide to receive a Federal COPS grant. The grant, in the amount of \$8.67 million will fund a total of 50 police officers. To ensure an acceptable ratio of recruits to instructors, there are 31 COPS-funded officers in this recruit class and the remaining 19 COPS-funded officers will likely begin the St. Louis Police Academy in the fall of 2010.

The new recruits will receive their badges at the graduation ceremony and will begin their assignments as police officers in the days that follow. Once the recruits are sworn-in as officers, it will bring the total number of St. Louis police officers to 1,372.

Who: Metropolitan Police Department

What: St. Louis Police Academy Graduation

When: May 6, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Where: Harris Stowe State University, 3026 Laclede

Reporters and Photographers are welcome to attend.

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