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**NEWS RELEASE**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

August 18, 2009

**Test Results Indicate No Excessive Lead Levels in Employees or Horses**

*Blood tests performed as precaution following discovery of high lead levels in stables*

After receiving results for lead-testing conducted on Mounted Patrol Unit employees as well as the horses that formerly resided in the Mounted Patrol stables, the Metropolitan Police Department-City of St. Louis ("the department") is pleased to announce that no elevated levels of lead were detected in either group. The 22 Mounted Patrol Unit employees and 10 horses underwent lead testing as a precaution after the department learned that there are high levels of lead on the floors and walls of the Mounted Patrol Unit's stables located within Forest Park.

The high lead levels on the floors and walls of the stables were discovered after the department requested testing be performed in preparation for the replacement of the stables' aging roof. The testing was requested prior to the scheduled roof replacement to ensure that the department would be spending bond money in the most fiscally responsible manner possible and would not encounter expensive, unexpected problems after replacing the roof. Air samples and surface samples were taken. The air samples indicated normal, acceptable levels of lead. However, surface samples indicated excessive lead levels on the floor and upper deck of the stables.

Physicians advised the department that lead normally enters the body by ingestion or inhalation, and since air samples were negative for lead, inhalation was not thought to be a danger to employees or horses. However the health and safety of our employees is important, as is the health and safety of the horses, so as a precaution, each employee had blood drawn by a physician for testing and each horse had blood drawn by a veterinarian for testing. The results for employees indicated no excessive levels of lead. The results for the horses indicated no detectable levels of lead.

As a result of the lead levels in the building, the Mounted Patrol Unit's stables are not currently in use and no decisions have been made as to the future of the stables. Officers are patrolling Forest Park on foot and in vehicles, however instead of using office space at the stables, they are now housed in the department's Support Operations Building at 4213 Gibson. The horses were moved from the stables to a location in Chesterfield, Missouri. Each horse will be individually assessed by department personnel to determine that its demeanor is suitable for the needs of Mounted Patrol. The horses are not patrolling Forest Park in the interim.

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