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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

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Metropolitan Police Department Joins Twitter as @SLMPD

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”) has joined hundreds of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies by launching a Twitter page. The department’s Twitter handle is @SLMPD. The department’s page can be found at www.twitter.com/slmpd. The department’s official website, www.slmpd.org also includes a link to the Twitter page.

Twitter allows immediacy as well as a convenient way of distributing information more directly to the citizens the department serves. The @SLMPD Twitter page will be used to distribute crime information, information about department events and make other police-related announcements. The page will also often be used to solicit help from the public in identifying individuals in surveillance photos who may be suspects or persons of interests in criminal incidents.

Technology is playing a key role in helping the department build bridges within the community. Among the department’s initiatives within the past year:

- **Nixle:** The community information service allows the department to deliver important and timely messages to citizens about crime patterns, wanted suspects, traffic issues and community events via text message, e-mail and the internet. Registration is free. Citizens may sign up for the service at www.nixle.com.
- **An expanded www.slmpd.org:** The department’s website now includes crime prevention tips, individual police district information and expanded crime statistics. The website now has more than 70 pages of information for citizens, compared to just 22 on the previous site.
- **CrimeReports:** Citizens can sign up through the department’s website to receive information about crimes that occur in their neighborhood. By clicking on “Crime Mapping” on the www.slmpd.org homepage, citizens can view maps that show where crimes occurred in the city and can even subscribe, for free, to a service that provides e-mail alerts.

The department sent it’s first “tweet” on August 16. The department’s social media platform is likely to expand in the months to come.

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