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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

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**Violent Offenders Unit, 6 Months Later:
More than 75 Active Cases in the Federal System
More than 75 Weapons Seized**

6 months after Chief Dan Isom of the Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the Department”), announced the formation of the expanded Violent Offenders Unit (VOU), more than 75 cases have been presented for Federal prosecution and more than 75 weapons have been seized.

The Department previously had a unit dedicated to violent offenders, but in late 2008, Chief Isom approached federal agencies and prosecutors seeking to expand efforts to apprehend criminals by combining resources and intelligence from all areas of law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

The VOU’s formation was approved by the Board of Police Commissioners on January 21, 2009. It is an unprecedented collaboration to aggressively investigate, arrest and prosecute the most dangerous criminals in our community. The 31-person VOU is staffed by Metropolitan Police Department Officers (14) and agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) (8), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) (6) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) (3). The U.S. Marshals Service has assisted in the apprehension of some violent offenders. The VOU also collaborates with the Department’s Homicide Division.

The VOU works to systematically target and dismantle violent gangs in St. Louis and restore peace to neighborhoods that criminals are attempting to overtake. The VOU focuses on offenders who are the worst of the worst, with officers and agents working undercover in targeted areas known for drug deals and high levels of gang activity.

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