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**NEWS RELEASE**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

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**St. Louis Police Announce 2008 Crime Statistics**  
*Total Crime Down 9.1 Percent in 2008*

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department released 2008 crime figures indicating a 9.1 percent decrease in total crime as compared to 2007 figures.

Crimes against persons were down 3.5 percent in 2008 which includes a 7.1 percent drop in rape, a 4.6 percent drop in robberies and a 3.4 percent drop in aggravated assault. While the city experienced a 6.4 percent increase in assaults with guns, the most significant increase in person crimes was homicides, which increased by 21 percent as compared to 2007. In the summer of 2008, the Department launched the Homicide Deterrence Initiative to combat the increase in homicides. The HDI is credited as being one of the reasons that homicides decreased in the fourth quarter of 2008 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2007. The Department remains committed to continuing this trend in 2009.

Total Burglaries decreased just slightly, down .2 percent when compared to 2007. Vehicle thefts during 2008 were down 7 percent when compared to the previous year. This number reflects a 51.9 percent decrease in Truck and Bus thefts, but also includes a 12.1 percent increase in auto thefts and a 36 percent increase in motorcycle thefts. Auto theft is often a crime of opportunity for thieves. Citizens can protect themselves from becoming a victim by acquiring car clubs available from the Department or the Neighborhood Stabilization Group.

The city also saw a 14.8 percent decrease in larcenies and a 21 percent decrease in arson. These numbers contributed to the 10.3 percent decrease in total crimes against persons in 2008.

The Department will continue to use every available resource, strategy and tactic to continue to decrease crimes against persons and property in 2009. Citizens are encouraged to help police by calling 911 when you see suspicious activity and by calling CrimeStoppers at 1-866-371-TIPS to report information anonymously. Citizens are key to helping keep our community safe.

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