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**NEWS RELEASE**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

February 5, 2009

**Metropolitan Police Department to Participate in Blood Drive**  
*Second Annual "Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive"*

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Officers and Department employees will help save lives in a different way this week, with an employee blood drive. The Department will hold its second annual "Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive," on Friday, February 6, 2009, at the North Patrol, located at 4014 Union.

The Charles Drew Community Blood Donation Campaign is a community-based initiative developed by the American Red Cross Missouri-Illinois Blood Service Region, Washington University School of Medicine and St. Louis Children's Hospital. During the blood drive, African American donors are specifically targeted, in order to assist patients with sickle cell disease.

All blood donated during this blood drive will be screened to determine if the donor is a match for a patient with sickle cell disease. If a match is found, the donor is notified and asked if he or she would consider being a designated donor for a sickle cell patient.

In the U.S. nearly 60 percent of the population is eligible to give blood, however only five percent actually donate. This often results in dangerously low blood supplies, as someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion every two seconds. The Department is doing its part to combat this problem by encouraging all eligible donors to participate in this year's blood drive.

**Who: Metropolitan Police Department Employees**  
**What: "Charles Drew Blood Drive"**  
**Where: North Patrol, 4014 Union**  
**When: Friday, February 6, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Reporters/Photographers are welcome to cover this event. There will be sound available with both the police organizer and a representative from the Red Cross.**

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