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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

November 17, 2010

Citizens Police Academy Graduation Set for Wednesday

Thirty St. Louis Citizens to Graduate after Completing 12-Week Course

A diverse Citizens Police Academy class which includes a park ranger, a lawyer, nurses and a third-degree black belt will graduate tonight from the Metropolitan Police Department's Citizens Academy class. The department will honor 30 individuals who have completed the course with a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. on the sixth floor of Police Headquarters located at 1200 Clark Avenue.

The 12-week course was designed to strengthen the bond between the department and the community. Participants in the class said they wanted to learn more about how the Police Department works. Several class members are also active in their respective neighborhood and ward organizations and wanted to empower residents about how to stay safe and cooperate with police.

The Citizens Police Academy offers St. Louis city residents and business owners a better understanding of the inner workings of the department through instruction in the department's history and structure, how the department predicts and analyzes crime patterns, gang intelligence, homicide investigations and community policing techniques. Students in the Academy also have the opportunity to interact with police canines and the police bomb robot, as well as tour the 911 center and use shooting simulators. Tonight's graduation is the culmination of the Academy class, but class members will likely continue to be called upon by department employees to serve as volunteers in various capacities.

WHO: Metropolitan Police Department
WHAT: Citizens Academy Graduation
WHEN: Wednesday, November 17 at 7 p.m.
WHERE: Police Headquarters
1200 Clark Avenue

Reporters and photographers are welcome to attend.

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