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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

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Police Seek Help from Public in Solving Cold Cases
Despite efforts from investigators, both homicides remain unsolved

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”) is requesting assistance from the public to help bring the people responsible for two homicides to justice. Despite extensive efforts from investigators, both homicides remain unsolved.

On May 23, 2007, the St. Louis Fire Department was requested to a fire in an alley in the 4700 block of St. Louis Avenue. As firefighters were putting out the fire they discovered the victim, Ralph Cato, a 39-year-old black male. The victim was badly burned and his hands were tied with what appeared to be duct tape. He was pronounced dead at the scene. An autopsy revealed the victim had been shot multiple times. Earlier that day, the victim’s wife had reported him missing. The victim’s vehicle, a 2002 PT Cruiser, was also discovered burned on a vacant lot in the 3000 block of New Ashland Place the same day.

Police are also seeking information about the October 2009 murder of Percel Perkins, a 24-year-old black male. On October 19, 2009 at 7:45 p.m., Perkins was in the front passenger seat of a vehicle that was stopped at a red light on Tucker at Convention Plaza. A suspect in a grey or silver sedan, possibly a Pontiac Bonneville, fired shots at the victim’s vehicle. The victim was shot in the head. He was taken to an area hospital where he later died.

Police have exhausted all available leads in both cases. Investigators hope an appeal to the public will result in the suspects being identified, or in new, credible leads. Anyone with information about either incident is asked to contact CrimeStoppers at 1-866-371-TIPS.

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