

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

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## **Police Implement “Homicide Deterrence Initiative”**

Results So Far: 92 Arrests, 14 Guns Recovered, 0 Homicides

The Metropolitan Police Department of the city of St. Louis announced details today, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, of a newly implemented Homicide Deterrence Initiative (HDI). The goal of the HDI is simple—disrupt the behaviors that lead to homicide. Chief Joe Mokwa says “one life lost to this senseless violence is too many. This initiative is sending a message that this culture of violence must stop.”

While crime overall is down 14% this year in the city of St. Louis, there’s been a distressing increase in homicides. As of July 14<sup>th</sup> 2007, there had been 65 homicides in the city. As of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, there have been 89 homicides. 21 of those 89 homicides occurred in neighborhoods that are now being targeted by the Homicide Deterrence Initiative.

The HDI is a combined effort of Officers from the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> districts, Canine, Crime Suppression, Intelligence Division/Gang Unit, Juvenile, Mobile Reserve, Most Violent Offenders Unit, Narcotics, Problem Properties and Traffic Safety. The HDI is also receiving assistance from U.S. Marshal’s and Missouri’s Probation and Parole Officers.

To attain that goal, the HDI calls for several action steps including:

- Saturating targeted neighborhoods**
- Command Van posted in targeted neighborhoods**
- Roll Call in targeted neighborhoods**
- Curfew Initiative**
- Intelligence gathering**

Police will have a prominent presence in the targeted neighborhoods, saturating the area with Officers. A Command Van will be posted at a different neighborhood location each day. This mobile command post allows Officers access to communications tools and data that they’d normally have to go back to their area stations to retrieve. It allows officers to spend more time in the

targeted neighborhoods and serves as a reminder to those who may be willing to offend, that police are watching. Roll call is being moved from area stations to the targeted neighborhoods to serve that reminder as well.

In many cases, violent offenders or victims of violent crime are juveniles. The curfew portion of the HDI begins at 10pm each night and aims to get juveniles off the streets and back into the care of their parent or legal guardian. There are also countless intelligence initiatives as part of the HDI. The information gathered not only helps us solve existing crimes, but also helps us prepare and ultimately prevent retaliatory action.

The HDI has been in place since the morning of Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. In that time there have been 92 arrests. We have recovered 14 firearms. We have found 53 curfew violators. U.S. Marshal's have made an additional 31 arrests. Most importantly, in the neighborhoods being targeted by the HDI, there have been no homicides.

The HDI will target the neighborhoods on the attached map for a total of two weeks. At the end of that period we will assess the results and determine if it's necessary to continue the HDI in these neighborhoods, move to new neighborhoods or incorporate a combination of the two options.

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