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**NEWS RELEASE**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

May 10, 2011

**Violent Offense Team Activated; Searching for Links, Suspects in South St. Louis Homicide, Attempted Burglary & Home Invasion**

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”) is activating its Violent Offense Team in an effort to determine if there are any links between a homicide, attempted burglary and home invasion, all of which occurred in South St. Louis.

The Violent Offense Team activates for the investigation of certain crimes due to the nature of the offenses, the need for timeliness in the investigation and the expertise required in different areas of the investigation. The Violent Offense Team activated for this investigation consists of approximately 30 commissioned officers from the following areas: Patrol, District Detective Bureau, Homicide, Special Operations Team, Rapid Deployment Unit and Anti-Crime. Members of the Violent Offense Team will be working 24 hours per day on split shifts until such time they are deactivated. As a part of the department’s partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to address violent crime, the F.B.I. is offering additional personnel and technology to help locate suspects.

The Violent Offense Team will investigate links in hopes of developing suspects in relation to three crimes:

- Police were called to the 5000 block of Idaho around 7:30 p.m. on May 9 after a person saw a man lying face down in a back yard. The man, 58 year old Paul Reiter, was pronounced dead at the scene. It was determined that he had been shot at least once in the abdomen.
- A window in the back of the residence next door to Mr. Reiter’s home was indeed broken and the resident there reported an attempted burglary to police. Investigators believe there is a strong possibility that Mr. Reiter may have interrupted the suspects as they attempted to burglarize the home next door. An area canvass located a witness who reported seeing two Black males near the residence where the attempted burglary occurred. The witness indicated the suspects, both believed to be in their teens or early 20s, were in the area around 10:00am.
- In the third incident, which occurred around 1:15 a.m. on May 10, four masked Black male suspects entered a residence in the 200 block of East Steins and ordered, at gunpoint, the two women in the residence to lie on the floor. The suspects then rummaged through the house, taking multiple electronics before

leaving the residence. The two women, a 50 year old and 41 year old, were not injured.

While the likelihood of the first two incidents being connected is strong, the team will be working to learn if the third incident may have been committed by some of the same suspects. The ultimate goal of the Violent Offense Team is to gather sufficient evidence to arrest those persons responsible for the crimes and turn them over to the court for prosecution. They will also be investigating to determine if the suspects involved have committed any similar crimes in the city.

**There will be a special Community Outreach Meeting Wednesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at Grbic Restaurant & Banquet Center, 4071 Keokuk, especially focused on police efforts in the Dutchtown neighborhood. The regularly scheduled police community outreach meeting is in June. In an effort to inform citizens about the Violent Offense Team, its efforts, provide citizens with information about how they can help police and more, the Captain is holding this special Community Outreach meeting.**

Police continue to urge anyone with information about any crime to call CrimeStoppers at 1-866-371-TIPS. Calls are anonymous. CrimeStoppers does not subscribe to caller i.d. Callers who provide information that leads to an arrest may be eligible for a cash reward. Through a system established by CrimeStoppers, callers can remain anonymous even during the actual collection of the reward.

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