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NEWS RELEASE
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Police Board Calls on State Auditor to Examine Towing
Interim Police Chief Will Oversee Internal Review

The Board of Police Commissioners (“The Board”) for the Metropolitan Police Department of the City of St. Louis (“The Department”) requested on Friday, September 18th, that Missouri State Auditor Susan Montee conduct an audit of the Department’s practices in regards to towing, as well as an audit of the former contract between the Department and St. Louis Metropolitan Towing. The Board expressed concern that some Department practices may have contributed to a failure to recognize problems related to towing sooner.

Chief Pollihan will also oversee an internal team that will review matters related to towing. The material from that review will be turned over to the State Auditor. Chief Pollihan said, “I’ve always been taught that when you make a mistake you admit it and then you do what you can to fix it. We should have caught these problems sooner. Between the Federal Investigation, our own internal team, and now the State Audit, we will know exactly what happened to get us to this point and we’ll take those lessons with us as this Department starts a new chapter. We can’t go back and undo what’s already happened, but we can prevent it from happening again, and that’s exactly what we’ll do.”

Board President Col. Chris Goodson said, “The Board has a duty to the citizens we represent and fully supports a State Audit. The Department cannot function without the public’s trust. The people of St. Louis deserve a clear understanding of how this happened and re-assurance that we won’t wind up on this road ever again. As for any contractually obligated payments the towing company did not make, and I want to be very clear about this—we will use every legal avenue possible to recover every taxpayer dollar that’s owed.”

The Department currently uses the towing services of the City of St. Louis after the Board terminated the relationship with St. Louis Metropolitan Towing on July 18th.

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