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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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### **Rape Definition Change for Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)** *Metropolitan Police Department Strongly Supports New Definition*

On January 1, 2013, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) implemented a revised definition of rape within their Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as recommended by the FBI Advisory Policy Board and U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women.

Prior to January 1, 2013, rape was defined in the National UCR Program as the "carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will." The new definition is "the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." These are significant changes that broaden the scope of the crime, providing the first revisions to the definition of rape in over 80 years.

This expanded definition will allow law enforcement agencies to report more accurate rape offense data throughout the UCR Program to ensure all applicable rape offenses and all victims of any gender or age are accounted for. As a result of the revised definition, the FBI expects to see an increase in reported rape offense data once the law enforcement community makes the necessary reporting changes to collect revised rape statistics. However, this does not necessarily mean there is an increase in rapes or violent crime in general. For example, a previously reported act of forcible sodomy will now be reported through the UCR program as rape.

"Looking at the 2012 crime statistics, the City of St. Louis would have reported approximately 135 additional rapes if this law had gone into effect on January 1, 2012. From a

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statistical stand point, it may appear as if we have a spike in rapes in 2013, this is simply not the case. We will now be reporting the crimes more accurately because the UCR requirements are more inclusive. This is a victory for rape survivors and we support the changes wholeheartedly.” said Chief Sam Dotson.

This UCR reporting revision does not change the current applicable state laws regarding the various sexual offenses.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics

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