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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

August 13, 2009

Metropolitan Police Department Announces Relocation of Mounted Patrol Unit After High Levels of Lead Are Detected

No Signs of Illness Shown; Employees, Horses to Undergo Testing as Precaution

The Metropolitan Police Department-City of St. Louis (“the department”) announced plans today to relocate its Mounted Patrol Unit to another facility. Test results received by the department last week indicate high levels of lead on the floors and walls of the Mounted Patrol Unit’s stables located within Forest Park. Department employees assigned to Mounted Patrol and the horses that reside in the stables will undergo lead testing as a precaution.

The department requested lead testing be performed at the stables as plans were being made to replace the stables’ aging roof. The roof replacement was to be paid for using funds from a 2008 building improvement bond issue. The testing was requested before the replacement was to begin, to ensure that the department would be spending the money in the most fiscally responsible manner possible and would not encounter expensive, unexpected problems after replacing the roof. Air samples and surface samples were taken. The air samples indicate normal, acceptable levels of lead. However, surface samples indicate excessive lead levels on the floor and upper deck of the stables.

The health and safety of the 22 employees assigned to the Mounted Patrol Unit are of utmost importance to the department, as is the health and safety of the 10 dutiful horses that serve the department and the citizens of St. Louis. Though no employees have shown signs of illness, the department made arrangements for every Mounted Patrol employee to undergo testing as a precaution.

Dr. Karen Shockley, medical director at BarnesCare said, “Lead normally enters the body by ingestion or inhalation. Multiple environmental air samples were negative for lead, so inhalation is not thought to be a danger to the employees. While the chance of ingestion by floor to hand contamination is low, the Police Department has decided to test the employees working in the building. Screening blood tests were drawn Thursday, August 13, 2009 on the involved employees.”

The department has made arrangements to relocate employees from the stables to its Support Operations building at 4213 Gibson. Officers will continue to patrol the park

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on foot and in vehicles. While the horses have shown no signs of illness, they will be evaluated by a veterinarian as a precaution. The horses will be moved to a location in Chesterfield, Mo. The horses will not patrol Forest Park in the interim.

The Mounted Patrol Unit operates in Forest Park as a unit of the Traffic Safety Division. Mounted Patrol is responsible for patrolling the nearly 1300 acres of Forest Park on a 24-hour basis on horseback. The horses also assist with crowd control at large events as well as represent the department during parades and festivals.

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