February 08, 2010

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**Officer Involved Shooting**

On February 8th at approximately 1:20 AM, officers of the Springfield Police Department were dispatched to an apartment in the 900 block of South Jefferson regarding an assault with a knife. The alleged suspect in this case was reported to be intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance. Although the suspect left the scene prior to the arrival of police officers, he was later spotted by another officer. Due to the information above and the erratic driving of the suspect, a pursuit was initiated and eventually terminated near the intersection of Timbercreek and Grand, where the suspect’s vehicle became stuck in the mud at this location.

At this point the suspect driver refused to comply with officer’s verbal commands to surrender and he was then able to free his vehicle. He then accelerated towards the police officers. Three officers fired at the suspect and he was struck in the neck area. The suspect was then transported to St. John’s Hospital where he was alert and talking.

At the request of the Springfield Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol has taken the lead investigative role in this matter since the officer involved shooting occurred just outside the City limits. The Springfield Police Department will also conduct an administrative internal investigation into this incident concerning policy and procedural adherence. All three officers have been placed on paid administrative leave pending the completion of the MSHP investigation, which is standard operating procedure.

**SPD Case Number: 10-5301**

Media Contact: Interim Chief Ron Hartman, phone: 417-864-1782; Release authorized by: Major Bob Brown