February 22, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

South District Police Station Lobby to Close

Citizens who need to visit the Springfield Police Department for lobby services such as obtaining or making police reports will need to use the main headquarters after the South District Station lobby closes on Feb. 28, 2010.

The South District Station lobby is closing because of ongoing staffing shortages and budget cuts. This decision was made since the SDS lobby is used much less frequently than the main Police Headquarters lobby at 321 E. Chestnut Expressway. The Police Headquarters Lobby at 321 E. Chestnut Expressway will continue to be staffed around the clock every day and it provides all Police services.

Citizens are always urged to call 911 in an emergency. A phone is located outside of the lobby door entrance of the South District Station, 2620 W. Battlefield Road, that can be used to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

While the Police Department plans to re-open a training academy late this spring following passage of the dedicated Police-Fire pension fund sales tax, the Police Department lobbies are staffed by civilian employees who are affected by the General Fund hiring freeze. Priority is placed on putting as many officers as possible into the field rather than having sworn officers staff lobby counters.

“We regret any inconvenience this may cause for citizens,” Interim Chief Ron Hartman said. “We believe this is the most efficient way to assign our civilian staff members, while also keeping sworn officers on the street.”

He said the South District Station lobby services would be re-evaluated if and when the hiring freeze is eventually lifted.

Citizens also may use the City Web site to access information and submit certain types of Police reports at: www.springfieldmo.gov/spd.

For more information, contact: Interim Police Chief Ron Hartman, 864-1782