

July 19, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **News Conference at Crime Lab July 21**

The City of Springfield and Greene County will hold a news conference at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 21 at the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Springfield Regional Crime Lab to discuss the benefits to due process and enforcement of the law that the facility has provided for the region and the state.

Following the news conference, a tour of the facility for media will allow for a closer look at the work being done at the lab by forensic scientists.

The event will be held on the third floor of the Crime Lab, which is located at 425 E. Phelps Street (at Jefferson and Phelps).

The Regional Crime Lab opened in late 2008 following a collaborative effort among state, city and county leaders and the private sector to secure funding for the \$6.8 million facility. The 30,000-square-foot lab is part of a network of labs operated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Missouri Department of Public Safety, and it provides forensic science services in the specialties of firearms/toolmarks, latent fingerprints, DNA, trace evidence, toxicology, and drug chemistry. The lab employs 27 people in all.

Funding for the project came from a variety of sources. The State of Missouri appropriated \$1.9 million; the City of Springfield authorized \$1.8 million from its Level Property Tax; and \$468,775 of a \$1.4 million federal grant for equipment was used for construction costs related to the needs of the equipment, such as special ventilation. A critical element of the funding was the offer by a consortium of Springfield-Greene County banks to provide a \$2.7 million low-interest loan to Springfield and Greene County. Greene County partnered with several counties and municipalities throughout the region to participate in the loan repayment.

For more information, contact: Mike Brothers, Co-Interim Director of Public Information, City of Springfield, (417) 864-1119.



**Department of Public Information**

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