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**MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
OF METRO ST. LOUIS**

LINKING LOCAL COMMUNITIES | STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PRESS RELEASE

November 30, 2017

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT APPROVED TO BRING REGIONAL CONSISTENCY TO POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, St. Louis Area City Managers Association Adopt
Language Prepared by the St. Louis Area Police Chiefs Association

St. Louis – The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis voted tonight to approve language, proposed by the St. Louis Area Police Chiefs Association (SLAPCA), adopting best practices for law enforcement agencies across the region. As a result of this vote, all League members' police departments will begin a process of certification before January 1, 2019, with the goal of completion by January 1, 2022.

"Tonight's vote is a major step toward establishing consistent standards of policing across our region," said Chuck Caverly, President of the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis. "By requiring our member municipalities to seek certification, we aim to encourage our region to build on the 25 percent of currently certified local police agencies and become a national leader in the number of certified police departments."

Best practices required under this agreement include having written policies on: appropriate use of force; handling crises intervention team; bias-free policing; vehicle operation, accidents, and pursuits; investigation of officer-involved shooting incidents; in-custody deaths; and citizen complaint process and internal affairs. All officers must be Peace Officers Standards and Training certified and licensed, and detailed background checks will be conducted.

Chief Kevin Murphy (Clayton), president of SLAPCA, explained, "The purpose of establishing the Best Practices Agreement is to ensure all citizens receive a level of service that is a model of consistency and professionalism, and which will shine a very positive light on St. Louis area law enforcement. In doing so, we expect the level of trust between law enforcement and the citizens we serve to be greatly enhanced."

Chief Tim Lowery (Florissant), the Chairman of the Best Practices Committee added, "It is the intent of our membership to assist any agency in meeting this level of police services, with the ultimate goal of accreditation/certification of all police departments in the St. Louis area."

Following a similar vote of adoption by the St. Louis Area City/County Managers Association (SLACMA), and originally adopted by the Police Chiefs on October 12, 2017, all three organizations will form a Best Practices Committee to monitor compliance.

Jason McConachie, president of SLACMA and City Administrator for the City of Overland, said of his organization's support for the measure, "Public safety is a leading concern across our region. Appointed officials throughout our organization see certification, and consistently raising the levels and standards of police best practices, as wins for residents throughout the region."

Acceptable certification systems recognized by this agreement are Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), Missouri Police Chiefs Association, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), or any other recognized accredited organization that utilizes an external audit conducted by assessors not directly affiliated with the police agency.

***Note:** Membership in the St. Louis Area City/County Managers Association is not dependent on a city having signed this agreement. Membership in both the Municipal League and the Police Chiefs Association requires the adoption of this best practices initiative within a stated timeline.*

About Municipal League of Metro St. Louis

The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis advocates for effective and efficient policy, collaborates with local partners, and educates members on best practices in local government for our region, our members, and our residents. This regional organization will celebrate its 100th year in 2018 as a leader in issues-based governance.

About St. Louis Area City/County Managers Association

The St. Louis Area City/County Managers Association is a professional organization of local government administrators in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area with a mission to improve the quality of local government by providing opportunities for development, support, and information sharing among members.

About St. Louis Area Police Chiefs Association

The St. Louis Area Police Chiefs Association seeks to establish a unified leadership organization for law enforcement governance in the St. Louis region by encouraging best police practices and standards for professionalism that support human rights and civil liberties. The goal is to serve constituents with integrity by continuously building trust and confidence between the police and the public.

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