



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ Media Advisory ~

Springfield Police Department Seeks Citizen Academy Applicants

Deadline for applications is Monday, March 5

The Springfield Police Department will hold its 2012 Citizen Police Academy from March 30 through June 8, providing a behind the scenes look at the daily jobs of police officers and all the folks who work side-by-side with them. The no-cost, 33-hour training program, which consists of classroom and “hands-on” instruction, is open to anyone age 18 or older. Preference will be given to Springfield residents and people doing business in Springfield. Deadline to submit an application is

March 5.

Classes are held weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with the exception of a couple of the classes. To graduate, each student must attend at least nine of the eleven classes. Anyone interested in completing an application can obtain one from the Springfield Police Department at 230 Fourth Street or at the police department’s web-site at www.Springfield-or.gov/police/home.html. The application must be returned prior to March 5. All applicants will be notified regarding their acceptance to the academy by March 14.

Background:

The Academy is designed to provide citizens with a better understanding of the nature of police work, and to give them an opportunity to interact with Springfield Police Department staff in a non-emergency setting. It’s also an opportunity to provide input on police policy, practice and procedure.

Police Chief Jerry Smith, himself one of the Academy instructors, says the course is “a long-established and important police/community relations program.” The course is designed for citizens from all backgrounds and occupations.

The classes cover officer selection and training, the job of the uniformed patrol officer, investigation skills, tactical operation, canine unit, use of firearms, vice and narcotics, communications, crime scene search, and crime prevention. Students tour police facilities, use police equipment and fire police department-issued weapons.

For more information, contact the Springfield Police Department Community Services Unit at 541.726.3731, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.