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N e w s R e l e a s e

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St. Charles Parish Narcotics Unit receives **CRIMESTOPPERS Award**

Sheriff Champagne is pleased to report that the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division received the Law Enforcement Award at the 25th ANNUAL CRIMESTOPPERS LUNCHEON held on March 16, 2010 in New Orleans.

Just before Mardi Gras, The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office began executing 97 arrest warrants for street-level drug dealers in the parish. This was the culmination of a one year long undercover effort nicknamed "The Krewe of Dope."

As of this time, all but a handful of drug dealers remain at large with many more having fled St. Charles Parish thinking they were on the list. Operation Krewe of Dope involved the use of substantial resources including deputies, detectives and undercover officers loaned to St. Charles by other law enforcement agencies.

"Most of the targets of this operation were some of the most prolific street dealers we have," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. Many have arrest records, which include dozens of arrests for all types of offenses including drugs, illegal narcotics dealing and usage.

According to Champagne, illegal drug trafficking is directly or indirectly responsible for much of the crime experienced in St. Charles Parish, including thefts and burglaries. This illegal activity also reduces the quality of life for residents who have to put up with these dealers in their neighborhoods.

"The Special Investigations Division of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office worked countless hours making and putting these cases together so that hopefully, this Krewe of "Dopes" can be taken off the streets," said Champagne.

