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Cincinnati Community Safety Partners Win \$15,000 National Award

*MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award honors
Over-the-Rhine Chamber/ Over-the-Rhine Revitalization Corporation,
Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and Cincinnati Police Department*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cincinnati, OH (September 19, 2007) – Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Over-the-Rhine Chamber/Over-the-Rhine Revitalization Corporation and the Cincinnati Police Department will be honored tomorrow by MetLife Foundation for significant accomplishments in reducing crime and improving quality of life in the city's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. Vice Mayor, David Crowley, Police Chief Streicher, City Council representatives and MetLife Agency Director E. Matt Gilliam will be on hand at the MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award ceremony tomorrow at 10:00 am at Imagination Alley on the 1300 block of Vine Street.

The Awards, sponsored by MetLife Foundation and administered by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), recognize partnerships between community development groups and police departments that have reduced crime and spurred housing development, economic activity and improved community services in low- and moderate-income communities. The Cincinnati partners will receive a \$15,000 second-place Neighborhood Revitalization Award to sustain their community safety activities.

“MetLife Foundation is committed to building healthy communities and recognizes that crime is a significant threat to the economic and social health of communities,” said Sibyl Jacobson, President of MetLife Foundation. “We are pleased to join LISC in recognizing the Over-the-Rhine partners for breaking down the silos that can exist between community groups and police and creating a safer, more livable community.”

The recent improvements in Over-the-Rhine serve as a strong example of the positive results that occur when police departments collaborate with local development organizations. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Over-the-Rhine Chamber/ Over-the-Rhine Revitalization Corporation and the Cincinnati Police Department joined forces to combat problems of disorder, blight and fear. Creative policing, coupled with targeted economic development efforts, produced a significant reduction in drug activity and related violent crime, while also substantially increasing the economic vitality of the neighborhood.

In order to fight crime in the Over-the-Rhine area, the Police Department utilized crime analysis, combined with information from local residents and organizational partners, to identify hot spots and make strategic decisions about deployment of law enforcement resources. Community development corporations and the Chamber targeted their beautification, organizing and redevelopment efforts in these

areas to create anchors of hope and economic activity. "LISC of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky exists to support community self-improvement projects just like this," said Don Lenz, Executive Director of the local LISC office. "We are so proud of our Over-the-Rhine partners for their safety-related accomplishments, and expect to continue to work with them in building a healthy, balanced community."

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Over-the-Rhine Chamber/Over-the-Rhine Revitalization Corporation and the Cincinnati Police Department were selected from more than 400 applicants nationwide for the MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award. Other recipients of the Neighborhood Revitalization Award are based in Providence, RI; Detroit, MI; Phoenix, AZ; Charlotte, NC; and Pittsburgh, PA.

"These partnerships have proven that community developers and police can greatly improve neighborhood safety and health when they integrate their strategies and share resources," said Julia Ryan, director of the Community Safety Initiative (CSI), the national LISC program that administers the awards. "The significant increase in applicants for this year's awards demonstrates the importance of community-police partnerships and the great value of MetLife Foundation's commitment to spreading best practices in this area."

CSI builds formal, long-term partnerships between law enforcement and community developers in troubled neighborhoods to reduce persistent crime, disorder and fear. The partners select, coordinate, and implement their development initiatives and crime-control efforts to produce results – crime reduction that promotes development and development that promotes crime reduction. By the unconventional linking of innovative policing with economic development, police and developers aim to attract the kinds of social and financial investments that make communities safer and more vibrant. More information on CSI can be found at www.lisc.org/csi.

LISC is the nation's leading community development support organization. Since 1980, LISC has marshaled more than \$7.8 billion from 3,100 investors, lenders and donors. In over 300 urban neighborhoods and rural communities nationwide, LISC has helped 2,800 organizations build or rehabilitate more than 215,000 affordable homes and 30 million square feet of retail, community and educational space—totaling \$22.3 billion in development. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people have better lives and brighter futures. LISC established CSI in 1994 to help neighborhood groups develop alliances with police departments to combat persistent crime and disorder problems.

MetLife Foundation, established by MetLife in 1976, is a long-time supporter of LISC's community revitalization programs. In 1994, the Foundation made a \$1 million leadership grant to pilot the CSI. MetLife and the Foundation have also made below-market rate loans and grants of almost \$77 million to the organization. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.