

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inver Grove Heights Police Department Offers Innovative App to Vulnerable Residents

IGH PD to Partner with Vitals™ Aware Services

Inver Grove Heights, Minn., October 21, 2020 -- The Inver Grove Heights Police Department (IGH PD) is partnering with Vitals™ Aware Services, a Twin Cities-based company that developed the Vitals™ app, to offer a new service to Inver Grove Heights (IGH) residents with mental health concerns. IGH PD invites residents to attend a free event to learn more about the Vitals™ app on Wednesday, October 28 at 6 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Community Center National Guard Gymnasium at 8055 Barbara Avenue in Inver Grove Heights.

The Vitals™ app provides a means for individuals with autism, dementia, or other mental health concerns to communicate their health information to police officers and first responders. Those who enroll upload their information into Vitals™ and are provided with a Bluetooth safety beacon that they carry with them. IGH PD officers can then receive an alert from the Vitals™ app on their cellphones if they are near an individual with special needs who is carrying the beacon. When officers are aware of a person's mental health concerns, they can communicate and offer help more effectively.

"I am excited to be able to offer the Vitals™ app service in our community," added IGH PD Chief Melissa Chiodo. "Our department receives extensive training in communicating with individuals with special needs and mental health concerns, and this app gives officers an additional new tool to use in serving those who are sometimes our most vulnerable residents. I saw a need for the Vitals™ app in our community, which is why I decided to introduce it here in IGH, and I hope that other jurisdictions will follow. I think many communities could benefit from it."

The first 50 IGH families who sign up for the Vitals™ app event on October 28 will receive a free Vitals™ safety beacon. IGH residents can find out more about the app at www.thevitalsapp.com and sign up for the event at www.thevitalsapp.com/inver-grove-heights-vitals-app/.

###

About the Inver Grove Heights Police Department

The Inver Grove Heights Police Department is an engaged and progressive law enforcement agency serving all who live, work, and visit our safe, vibrant, and growing community. The Inver Grove Heights Police Department, led by Chief Melissa Chiodo, has an authorized strength of 40 sworn officers (2018) and six non-sworn full-time staff members. As a group, members of the department are highly educated professionals who receive regular advanced training focused on skill enhancement and professional development. The Inver Grove Heights Police Department is committed to the use of evidence-based best practices in the provision of police services. As a

department, we are wholly invested in maintaining the safety, uniqueness, and livability of Inver Grove Heights. Learn more at ighmn.gov/17/Police or follow us on [Facebook](#).

About Vitals™ Aware Services

Vitals™ works by equipping first responders with information voluntarily provided by Vitals™ enrollees. Law enforcement and other first responders download the Vitals™ First Responder app on their cellphones. The service allows a vulnerable person to register online, then wear a beacon that takes the form of a keychain, necklace, debit card or bracelet. An Android phone can also serve as the beacon. When a Vitals™ user comes within 80 feet of an officer or first responder equipped with the service, the officer will get a notification about the information provided by the enrollee and how they may best interact with them.

To learn more about Vitals™, go to www.thevitalsapp.com.