



***Mayor Coleman's 2008 Proposed Budget:
Making Tough Choices, Moving Saint Paul Forward.***

Better Service at a Better Price

Mayor Coleman is committed to transforming the operations of the City of Saint Paul to provide Better Service at a Better Price.

This transformation is driven by many forces including:

- The Mayor's commitment to making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.
- The knowledge that public safety is essential to a city's quality of life.
- The foundation of the city's future is a well-educated, healthy population
- Significant decreases in the State of Minnesota's support of cities through local government aid.
- An historic transfer of responsibility for funding government from state-wide taxes to the local property tax.
- Technological and social advancements that have increased citizen's expectations of their local government.

The only way to meet citizens' high expectations with a radically altered funding system is to transform government to provide better service at a better price.

This process began with the 2007 City Budget.

We improved public safety by:

- Adding 38 new police officers to bring the Saint Paul Police Department to the highest staffing in its history.
- Conducting a thorough review of Fire Department operations resulting in several transformative recommendations that will align department operations with our 21st century needs.

We streamlined City operations by:

- Creating the Department of Safety and Inspections which brought together staff from the licensing, code enforcement and Citizens Services departments to create a single point of access to many of the City's most customer intensive functions.

We began transforming our parks and libraries for greater flexibility to respond to the needs of today's young people and tomorrow's leaders by:

- Changing the way recreation services are delivered by reassigning recreation staff to five regional service teams as well as a city-wide Mobile Recreation/ Go Team designed to respond to developing needs across the city.
- Maintaining hours at the city's 41 recreation centers allowing staff to gain a better understanding of which facilities are well used and which are under-utilized.
- Responding to the need for more out-of-school learning by instituting the revolutionary Second Shift program to encourage cooperation between Parks, Libraries and the school district to extend the learning day in effective ways.
- New service hours throughout the Library system to provide the most access to the most resources for our customers.

We began focusing economic development resources where they can have the most impact by:

- Creating Invest Saint Paul - Mayor Coleman's strategic investments in some of Saint Paul's most challenged neighborhoods. The healthier each neighborhood is, the healthier the entire city will be long-term.

The transformation will continue with the 2008 budget.

In 2008, we will:

Move aggressively toward reducing our dependence on unstable and unreliable State funding by:

- Instituting a three year plan to increase local revenues incrementally so that, in 2010, the City of Saint Paul will no longer depend on the Governor or one-time budget shifts to meet the high expectations of our citizens.

Continue to improve public safety by:

- Adding 25 police officers – getting us to 627 sworn officers and a plan to get to 650 by 2010.
- Implementing many of the recommendations of the 2007 Fire Department review so that the fire and emergency services provide even greater protection for the health and safety of residents. This budget starts with merging fire stations 1 and 10, as recommended in the audit.
- Conducting a review of Police Department operations to ensure we are meeting our City's highest obligation as efficiently and effectively as we can.

Continue to streamline government by:

- Conducting a departmental review of the Department of Technology and Communications to ensure that we are gaining the efficiencies that technology can provide.
- Continuing the transformation of Parks and Recreation Services by investing in people- not buildings. We will do this by:
 - Opening the innovative new Oxford Aquatic and Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and establishing partnerships between the center and the nearby Central High School.
 - Expanding the impact of last year's staff realignment by making greater use of the mobile recreation team and by altering hours at 33 of our recreation centers as we seek to meet our citizens' changing needs.
 - Reassigning staff currently at eight of our most underused recreation centers. While we will maintain fields and equipment at those centers, we will seek partners to operate and maintain three of the buildings, turn three of them back to the schools with which they are co-located, make one available for summer programming and eliminate one outdated building.