



Mayor Coleman's 2010 Budget: Reforming Government, Making Tough Choices, Investing in Saint Paul's Future

Public Safety in Saint Paul

Overview

Anchored by President Obama's commitment to partner with cities across America, Mayor Coleman's budget will put new officers on the street, and new firefighters on the job. Building on four years of investment, the 2010 budget couples these new personnel with the results of department-wide audits to ensure that Saint Paul remains one of the safest cities of its kind in the nation.

- ***Hiring 34 new police officers.*** Through money from the Recovery Act, the additional officers will return the department's strength to 610, giving it resources to increase community policing efforts – building relationships to combat gang activity, helping domestic violence victims escape abusive households, and keeping drugs from hurting our neighborhoods.
- ***Getting tough on Gangs.*** From innovative legal tools like civil gang injunctions to mentoring opportunities through the police department and non-profit community partners, the City will develop a multi-pronged approach to prevent gang activity and the drug trade.
- ***Creating new life-saving "super medic" units.*** A key element in balancing EMS and Fire workloads, the super medic team addresses rising EMS demands and keeps fire suppression resources strong.
- ***Bringing 18 new firefighters to the department.*** Using federal SAFER grant money, Mayor Coleman is investing in a department with professionals who reflect the face of our community.

Safe streets, safe neighborhoods

Saint Paul is blessed with world-class police and fire departments that are integral to making our streets safe for children, families, and residents. Mayor Coleman has committed to building the best departments through wise investments in personnel, facilities, and equipment, and this budget affirms that commitment.

The 2010 proposed budget enables the departments to:

- Effectively address drug dealing and reduce domestic abuse.
- Help young people resist gang involvement.
- Conduct all prescribed missions and duties in a safe, effective manner.
- Make notable progress to implement the Mayor's four strategic goals for making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.
- Make solid progress towards implementing the Fire Department's Strategic Plan.

Delivering Results

- Overall crime is down 14%, and homicides in the city dropped from 25% from 2005 through 2008.
- Rapes, aggravated assaults, and homicides have fallen each year since 2005.
- Rape incidents are down 29% since 2005, from 209 to 147 cases in 2008.
- Aggravated assaults saw a 10% decrease, from 1,411 cases in 2005 to 1,269 in 2008.
- Commercial burglary is down 43% since 2005, and robbery cases continue to drop from 2006, down nearly 10%.



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- Motor vehicle theft decreased in each of the last four years, down 25% from 2005 through 2008.
- Fire deaths in Saint Paul reached their lowest levels in 28 years in 2008 with only one fatality.
- Fire personnel have saved more than \$2 million worth of property compared to 2006 despite responding to 25% more calls in the same period.
- On-duty Fire/EMS daily staffing levels have increased, ensuring full staffing of all Fire/EMS units, and for the first time in decades, normal department staffing levels comply with NFPA minimum staffing standards.
- Response times for EMS calls remain some of the lowest in the nation compared to comparable cities – just under 5 minutes.
- Broke ground in 2008 on West Seventh and Randolph avenues for the new Fire Department headquarters and station for fire crews 1s and 10s.