



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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Mayor Coleman Announces Increased Funding for Summer Crime Prevention and Reduction

(Saint Paul) – In an effort to address summer crime prevention and reduction, Mayor Chris Coleman today announced the addition of 12 new police officers and an additional \$250,000 in funding for police overtime and community building. Coleman made the announcement at an afternoon press conference with Saint Paul Police Chief John Harrington.

“Public Safety is the number one responsibility of government, and the top priority for my administration. I am constantly working with the police chief to ensure Saint Paul is a safe place to work, live and play. Our focus today is to do everything we can do to suppress and prevent crime before it becomes a problem. There is no question we have a world class police department, and I am confident they can use this funding to target problem areas to make our safe city even safer,” Coleman said.

The additional resources will pay for 3,000 hours of discretionary overtime for directed patrols in targeted neighborhoods over the summer. The overtime will provide an increased police presence in neighborhoods that historically have an increase in criminal activity over the summer months.

“This additional overtime will allow the Saint Paul Police Department to move from simply reacting to crime and disorder to being proactive. Action always beats reaction in police work. We know these overtime dollars will produce dramatic results this summer, especially when coupled with community building like the God Squad and our work with district councils on block clubs and other crime prevention efforts,” Chief Harrington said.

Coleman also announced \$20,000 in increased funding for community building grants. These funds will be granted to targeted community organizations that will work with the police department on crime prevention through community building. The funds will be awarded based on need and the ability for collaboration with the Saint Paul Police Department.

“Strong communities result in safe neighborhoods. We will continue to strengthen the relationship between the City and community leaders, we will work to empower them to have ownership of their neighborhoods,” Coleman concluded.

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