



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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For Immediate Release
March 17, 2008

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Mayor Coleman Announces Program to Help Businesses Collect on Bad Checks

Bad Check Diversion Program Brings Creative Solution to Assisting Victims

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman announced today the launch of the Bad Check Diversion Program with Financial Crime Services that will address the problems many city businesses face accepting checks from shoppers.

“People who write bad checks are committing a crime. It defrauds business owners and raises the cost of good for all residents,” Mayor Coleman said. “Through the Bad Check Diversion Program and with our partner, the City will now have the resources to find those who write bad checks and help businesses recoup their losses while keeping those who inadvertently overdraw on their accounts out of the court system.”

Under the program, the City will contract with Financial Crime Services to work with business owners who receive a non-sufficient funds or closed account check to contact the offender, investigate, and seek restitution. First time offenders will be diverted out of the court system provided they pay full restitution, including fees, and entered into a financial counseling program provided by Financial Crime Services. Offenders who repeatedly write bad checks or commit more felonious financial transactions will be referred to the City Attorney’s Office for prosecution after Financial Crime Services completes its investigation.

Financial Crime Services will charge the offenders the cost of the investigation and related work.

“Businesses that have been victims of these crimes have asked for help from the city for years in collecting on bad checks, but limited resources have prevented us from investigating and then prosecuting,” Mayor Coleman said. “This innovative program will give us the resources we need to right the wrong and help us to separate those who make an honest mistake from those whose actions are criminal and deserve prosecutorial attention.”

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