

## ***As a resident of Saint Paul and Ward 4, what can you do to help your City?***

- **Get Involved!** Join or create a block club, or get involved with your district council. Block clubs help strengthen the fabric of our neighborhoods and can work to improve quality of life. Our amazing Ward 4 District Council staff can help you establish a block club. District Councils serve an important role in fostering community participation in decisions that affect our neighborhoods. :
  - Como Community Council: [www.comopark.org](http://www.comopark.org)
  - Hamline Midway Coalition: [www.hamlinemidway.org](http://www.hamlinemidway.org)
  - Saint Anthony Park Community Council: [www.sapcc.org](http://www.sapcc.org)
  - Union Park District Council: [www.unionparkdc.org](http://www.unionparkdc.org)
  - Macalester Groveland Community Council: [www.macgrove.org](http://www.macgrove.org)
- **Pick an issue** that's personally important to you and work on it. District Councils are a great starting place for neighborhood issues, but we are also fortunate to have a wealth of community organizations and non-profits that contribute heavily to the quality of life in Saint Paul. Ideas:
  - Tutor or mentor a child. Or help an adult learn English or study for the GRE. ([www.themlc.org](http://www.themlc.org))
  - Join Friends of the Library. ([www.thefriends.org](http://www.thefriends.org))
  - Volunteer to coach youth sports.
  - Volunteer with an elder-care organization to keep senior citizens in their homes.
  - Start a neighborhood walking group to reduce crime, improve your health, and meet your neighbors.
  - Start a "litter brigade" to clean up streets or a "shoveling brigade" to help clear walkways to improve mobility.
  - Organize your block to contract with a single trash hauler to reduce the number of trucks in your alley, reduce air/noise pollution, and reduce costs.
- **Work Together.** The City's staff and elected officials are here to serve you. Always dial 911 in an emergency or call the police if you've witnessed or experienced criminal or suspicious behavior. Some other types of problems can be addressed by talking to your neighbors. In some cases, problems such as barking dogs, unshoveled sidewalks, and tall weeds/grass are best addressed by talking to neighbors first. This approach can reduce costs for City departments, build community, and prevent problems down the road.
- **Review City budget information.** Visit <http://mn-stpaul.civicplus.com/index.asp?NID=2756> and <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=2546>
- **Share your ideas.** How can the City of Saint Paul save money through better efficiencies or budget reductions? Do you have suggestions for possible new revenue sources? Email ideas to [ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)
- **Copy this sheet and share it with three neighbors.** Encourage them to sign up for the Ward 4 monthly E-news update by emailing [Samantha.henningson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Samantha.henningson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

## Agenda

- 6:35 Welcome & Goals – Councilmember Russ Stark**
- Share budget information
  - Prioritize
  - Brainstorm budget reductions and new revenue sources
- 6:40 City Budget Overview – Margaret Egan, City Council Budget Analyst**
- 6:50 Clarifying Questions – Councilmember Russ Stark and Margaret Egan**
- 7:05 Small Group Brainstorming Session**
- Be ready to report back to the large group:
    - What are the group's top three budget reduction ideas?
    - What are the group's top three possible new revenue ideas?
    - Would your group reduce the budget of every department the same percentage, or more selectively, and how would various departments come out?
- 7:40 Small Group Leaders Report Back to the Large Group**
- 8:10 Conversation Wrap-Up – Councilmember Russ Stark**
- Final comments
  - Timeline for budget decisions:
    - March 11, time TBA – Mayor Coleman proposes budget to the City Council
    - March 18, 5:30pm – City Council tentatively scheduled to have a public hearing on the budget
    - Final vote for the council will likely be in early April

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**Ideas for improved efficiencies and/or budget reductions:**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Ideas for possible new revenue sources:**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Would your group reduce the budget of every department the same percentage, or more selectively, and if more selectively, how would various departments come out? \_\_\_\_\_**

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