



Saint Paul Progress 2005: A Blueprint to Keep Saint Paul Moving Forward

The Vision For Safe, Livable Neighborhoods

I. Executive Summary

One of Saint Paul's greatest strengths is its wide variety of safe, livable neighborhoods. From the East Side to Saint Anthony, the North End to the West Side and everywhere in between, Saint Paul is filled with places where family members from three and four generations live within blocks of each other. They stay because of the richness of their experience living in the city. They stay because Saint Paul is home.

Saint Paul must continue to nurture these special areas. As Mayor, I will work to strengthen our neighborhoods with two main strategies:

- 1) **Reduce crime and increase public safety** by continuing formal and informal crime prevention programs, expanding community policing efforts, focussing prosecution efforts on illegal guns and drugs, and increasing pedestrian and traffic safety; and
- 2) **Improve neighborhood quality and environment** by speeding up the code enforcement processes on blighted buildings and properties, improving environmental protection of our water and air, and improving traffic management.

II. Reducing crime and increasing public safety

For a neighborhood to be livable, it must first be safe. When residents' confidence in the safety of their neighborhoods erodes, the neighborhood ceases to be livable. As Mayor, I will actively promote safe neighborhoods through several strategies.

Maintaining and creating safe neighborhoods starts with strong crime prevention programs. I will work to strengthen the neighborhood watch programs and other neighborhood crime prevention efforts. I will also focus on informal crime prevention efforts, including efforts to encourage home ownership and youth development programs. These programs help give individuals a stake in their communities and make it less likely that they will commit crimes.

A Long administration will continue the Police Department's community policing efforts. It is important that officers become a trusted part of the community. The agreement between the Department and the NAACP to eliminate racial profiling is a beginning. The job will not be finished until all residents of Saint Paul feel confidence in and trust for our police officers.

Efforts to reduce crime must include aggressive efforts to eliminate illegal drugs and guns from our streets. Our police department must be kept at full staffing levels so that they may aggressively target open air drug dealing and methamphetamine labs. This drug dealing dramatically reduces the safety of the residents of these neighborhoods. In addition, as Mayor I will direct our police department to aggressively enforce and prosecute violations of gun laws. This will include seeking authority from the State Legislature to confiscate cars involved in crimes with guns.

Finally, pedestrian safety is a cornerstone of livable neighborhoods. We must work to increase driver awareness of safety issues. Improving the street markings and signs is also essential to increasing driver awareness. In some neighborhoods, traffic calming devices should be used to reduce traffic speeds. Improving transit options with commuter rail, improved traditional bus

service, and the development of a shuttle service that will bring people from one area of the city to another will all take cars off the streets, making them safer for pedestrians. Finally, we should look at new technologies such as “photo cop” as a way to discourage traffic violations.

III. Improving Neighborhood Quality and Protecting the Urban Environment

The idea of the “broken window” syndrome suggests that neighborhoods begin to deteriorate when properties are neglected. Neglected and blighted properties perpetuate an image of decay that destroys the livability of neighborhoods. The City of Saint Paul must be more aggressive in cleaning up blighted properties. This means providing increased levels of rehabilitation funding where appropriate as well as speeding up the Code Enforcement process.

The protection of Saint Paul’s urban environment is an important component in strengthening our neighborhoods. Lake Como and Lake Phalen have been sited by the MPCA as having high levels of phosphorous. We must work to improve our water quality by controlling our storm water runoff.

Finally, traffic congestion creates not only an inconvenience but a public health risk for residents and workers in Saint Paul. Congestion in downtown and at several intersections throughout the city can create dangerously high levels of air pollution. By increasing transit options with commuter rail and improved bus service we can reduce congestion and improve air quality. In addition, we should work to develop a shuttle service that can transport people from one core area in the city to another. This would be another way to reduce congestion and parking problems.

Prepared and paid for by Neighbors for Long.
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