



Axtell, Chief Todd (CI-StPaul)  
To #CI-StPaul\_SPPDandECC

13:33 ...

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to share with you some important information about the 2021 budget process.

When I became chief, I promised to be as transparent as possible and share news with you first, before rumors spread or the media reports on it.

Today the news is that Mayor Carter has directed the police department to present a \$9.2 million cut from its budget. To be fair, the city is facing a significant budget crisis and the mayor has some very difficult decisions to make.

I know this is a hit to our collective soul, especially given the crime trends we're seeing, the ever-increasing calls for service and the needs of the city. I shared with the Mayor my disappointment and urged him to reconsider.

I also had to submit a list of cuts that will be required in order to follow the Mayor's direction.

Sadly, the cold, hard truth is that cuts mean positions. It means positions both sworn and civilian, at all ranks.

But I'm hopeful we won't be forced to take that step. I'm hopeful because this is my eighth budget cycle as either the chief or assistant chief, and the initial projections normally change throughout the process. I'm hopeful because our community will get a chance to weigh in on the issue. And ultimately, the final budget is approved by the City Council, whose constituents know the value of the work you do.

But I can't make any promises, other than to support you and to be a tireless advocate for our department and the safety of the city.

Don't lose hope. Instead, remember that I believe in each and every one of you. Keep doing what others won't. And know that I'm so damn proud of you.

I will provide another budget update once more information about the Mayor's proposed cuts becomes available. In the meantime, continue your great work on behalf of the people we serve and stay safe, and thank you for everything you do.

With my deepest respect,  
-Chief Axtell



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