



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

*390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102*

*Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-266-8521*

July 20, 2012

Chief Smith,

I am following up on our recent discussions regarding the Saint Paul Police Department crime lab and the specific steps you are taking to assess the lab's policies and practices and restructuring of its operations. You and I both agree that the Saint Paul Police Department enjoys a hard-earned reputation as one of the best police departments in the nation, and in this case the crime lab has clearly not lived up to that standard.

The integrity of our testing facilities, as well as of our services for public safety, is of the utmost importance. As you know, every branch of the Saint Paul Police Department must perform to that standard, and anything less is unacceptable.

I appreciate the quick action you have taken to suspend all current drug testing and to reorganize the leadership of the lab. I have every confidence that you and Senior Commander Luna will restore the public's trust and the trust of our partners in this critical public safety function.

Per your more detailed recommendations for immediate next steps, I am in agreement with the decision to seek out the opinion of a range of outside experts, including accredited crime lab partners, to help the police department review the crime lab's current policies and practices and determine what steps need to be taken to achieve our high expectations. More specifically, I expect to see the following:

- A review of crime lab staff training needs;
- An assessment of the adequacy of existing testing equipment;
- An analysis of optimal staffing levels, including the integration of dedicated staff with scientific expertise; and
- A review of staff certification and crime lab accreditation options.

It is my hope and expectation that these steps will not only meet industry standards for high-quality investigative work, but position the Saint Paul Police Department's crime lab as a leader in its field.

Public safety in Saint Paul has been a top priority for this administration since I came into office. You and I share in that commitment and I have every confidence that the steps outlined above will position the crime lab to achieve the high standards you have set for all functions of the Saint Paul Police Department.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor