



## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510  
Facsimile: 651-228-8521

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Saint Paul has always been proud of its Irish heritage, and for as long as I can remember, Saint Paul's Saint Patrick's celebration has been one of the best in the country. As both Mayor and an Irishman, I am proud of this lively annual tribute to the city's Irish roots.

Our goal is to make this great event even better. The last two years demonstrated that when the Saint Patrick's Day parade has taken place on a Saturday, we reach higher levels of success toward our goals of maximizing accessibility and business vitality while minimizing disruption.

Without the need to take off from work or school, more families and children were able to take part in the celebration. Local restaurants and bars saw a significant leap in business. The city had more flexibility to close roads if needed with minimal disruption to residents and businesses. My office has heard overwhelming support of these Saturday parades. Because of this, I intend to work with the Saint Patrick's Day Association in partnership (including assistance with fundraising) to make sure next year's event is as successful as possible.

Make no mistake, Saint Patrick's Day is March 17 – that will never change. People will always come to Saint Paul on that day to celebrate, myself included, and this city will always be ready to receive them. But by allowing the parade—a defining Saint Paul tradition—to be on a day when everyone can celebrate, we are creating an inclusive, family-friendly and business-boosting celebration in addition to our normal Saint Patrick's Day festivities.

For now, I am excited and focused on having a great Saint Patrick's celebration this coming Monday, and look forward to working with the Saint Patrick's Association moving forward.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor