



Saint Louis County

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PRESS RELEASE

March 5, 2009

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For Immediate Release:

St. Louis County Commissioner sends letter to employees: “Thank you.”

St. Louis County 6th District Commissioner and Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, Keith Nelson sent a “thank you” letter to Department Heads yesterday. The letter recognizes the department heads for their collaboration and willingness to partner with Commissioners and County Administration to proactively deal with the December cut in County Program Aid payments of nearly \$2.1 million.

The Governor’s December unallotment announcement carried serious implications for counties and cities throughout the State of Minnesota by cutting budgeted funds, some of which had already been spent to carry out mandated programs and services throughout the year. This late December unallotment left counties and cities with no other options but to make drastic cuts or utilize reserves to maintain their fiscal integrity.

By planning ahead and participating fully in budget work throughout the year, St. Louis County was able to realize significant savings in 2008 that allowed the County to finish the year without having to make drastic cuts to programs or staffing in the face of this shortfall in revenue.

More information about St. Louis County’s budget is available at www.stlouiscounty.org/budget, including the 2009 Citizen’s Guide to the Budget.

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Saint Louis County

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Keith Nelson
6th District County Commissioner

March 3, 2009

Dear St. Louis County Department Heads,

Due to planning and cooperation throughout 2008, St. Louis County is able to determine that the Governor's December unallotment was proactively dealt with in such a way that we can avoid detrimental cuts in services to our citizens and taxpayers in response to this action.

I want to personally thank you for your collaboration and willingness to partner with Commissioners and County Administration. By holding positions open, participating in our review and hiring delay and by all the work we know you have done within your departments to scrutinize operating budgets and find efficiencies, we realized significant savings. It is only through these actions that we were able to finish the end of 2008 meeting our unallotment cuts and still continue our commitment to implement the County Board's cash flow designation in at least two out of three major funds.

In congratulating and thanking you for your actions in 2008, I recognize that we are not over these difficulties yet. We anticipate 2009 County Program Aid unallotments and specific and significant programmatic reductions, we will rely on your work and collaboration again.

Thank you for your past and continued cooperation and leadership in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Keith Nelson
Chair, Finance and Budget Committee

c: St. Louis County Commissioners
Alan L. Mitchell, County Administrator
Linnea Mirsch, Deputy Administrator
Gary Eckenberg, Deputy Administrator
John Ongaro, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs