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## Police union calls for more cops

### Campaign warns of crime migration from Minneapolis

BY MARA H. GOTTFRIED  
Pioneer Press

The St. Paul police union is gearing up its campaign for more officers by telling the public it's a way to "keep Minneapolis crime on the other side of the river."

On Saturday, the St. Paul Police Federation will start handing out brochures with that statement during an anti-crime rally in the city's North End.

"If you want to see what happens when you don't have enough cops, just look across the river," says the brochure, which is part of the "2 Few Cops = 2 Much Crime" campaign the union is kicking off, calling for 40 more officers to be hired next year and a total of 125 more by 2009.

Union President Dave Titus said the message isn't intended to offend Minneapolis.

"We're just pointing out an example of a city that reduced the amount of sworn officers that they had, and we believe it shows they're paying for it now," he said.

Minneapolis City Council President Barbara Johnson said both cities are in need of more police officers.

"I want to say I feel bad when they make Minneapolis appear to be the crime capital and they say, 'Beware, the bad guys will come over to St. Paul,' but we are absolutely struggling with a big increase in violent crime, so people do have a right to be afraid of this," Johnson said.

Matt Entenza, former DFL state representative for St. Paul, will be the campaign's chairman, Titus said.

If the union's proposed 40 officers are funded by a tax increase alone, the cost for the average homeowner in the first year would be less than \$2 a month, the union said.

Mayor Chris Coleman's proposed budget for next year includes an additional five officers and an 8.6 percent property tax hike. Next week, Council Member Dan Bostrom is expected to introduce a resolution to raise an additional \$900,000 in tax dollars, money he says could be used to hire 20 officers.

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak's proposed budget for next year calls for 43 more officers, which would return the force to the level it was before cuts were made a few years ago, said Jeremy Hanson, the mayor's spokesman.

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If you go

**What:** Rice Street community rally for more police

**When:** 10 a.m. Saturday

**Where:** 1079 Rice St.

For more info on the union's campaign, visit [www.2fewcops.com](http://www.2fewcops.com) or call 651-793-2336.