



Legislation Text

File #: RES 22-810, **Version:** 1

Recognizing Chief Todd Axtell's career with the City of Saint Paul and congratulating him on retirement.

WHEREAS, Todd Axtell has dedicated more than three decades of his professional life to public service and the City of Saint Paul, Minn.; and

WHEREAS, Todd Axtell has devoted his career to the honorable and noble profession of law enforcement, including 33 years with the Saint Paul Police Department and the last six as Chief of Police for Minnesota's capital city; and

WHEREAS, Chief Axtell has championed trust, transparency, community engagement, diversity, and the highest levels of accountability throughout his career while leading a law enforcement agency charged with protecting the peace and maintaining public safety; and

WHEREAS, under Chief Axtell's leadership, the Saint Paul Police Department as a model of excellence -known for delivering "trusted service with respect"-that is emulated and admired throughout the state and country; and

WHEREAS, during Chief Axtell's tenure at the helm of the SPPD, he instituted innovative training programs focused on ethical policing, moral courage, de-escalation and officer wellness, setting a standard that aligns with community values and exceeds state requirements; and

WHEREAS, Chief Axtell led successful efforts to increase the diversity of law enforcement professionals through recruitment programs including Junior Police Academies, the development of the Law Enforcement Career Path Academy; and engagement with Saint Paul's diverse communities, which are traditionally underrepresented in law enforcement, resulting in a 41 percent increase in the number of diverse employees in the SPPD over the past six years; and

WHEREAS, Under Chief Axtell's leadership, the Saint Paul Police Department has used lower levels of force than ever before, reduced civil payouts to record lows, publicly shared more data than ever, and engaged the community at historic levels, further establishing itself as a national model for a 21st century police department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Axtell will begin a new chapter in his life when he trades in his badge, Chief's title and oversight of more than 800 sworn officers and civilian employees for more time with his family and embarks on a new journey of public service helping other organizations make deposits in the "Bank of Trust"; and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Saint Paul City Council thanks Chief Axtell for his many years of dedicated public service to the people of Saint Paul; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, In honor of Chief Axtell's years of public service to the City of Saint Paul, June 1st, 2022, will be known as 'Todd Axtell Day' in the City of Saint Paul.