

Downtown BID 11/27

There goes John Brewer again (Journal, Nov. 11), clearly voicing his contempt for the people of Rapid City and particularly for the people and business owners of downtown Rapid City. He says our thoughts and concerns are "crap." The crap word is a quote attributed to Brewer in the news articles written by Paulette Tobin.

Since the BID question came up, Brewer and those around him have taken the position that only they know what's good for Rapid City and how to spend our money. All other people's concerns are "crap." Does Rapid City want or need this type of leadership? I think we can do better.

We need help from our friends, neighbors and all concerned citizens to defend ourselves from unfair taxation. Vote "yes" twice: yes to repeal BID, yes to repeal the BID tax.

RICHARD L. HOFF
4212 Canyon Lake Drive
Rapid City

Downtown BID

11/27 The "Committee for Fairness," in its zealous efforts to adversely influence the community, has used one untruth after another. Like young children determined to have their way throwing themselves on the floor in temper tantrums, committee members have resorted to lie after lie after lie.

The really pathetic result would be for the community to believe these untruths and vote to abolish the only plan to save downtown that has ever been devised. The plan is the result of many, many hours of effort by equally zealous people. To accuse them of cheating is also unfair.

Off-street parking for employees at a reduced rate, billboards to attract people to come downtown, a professional planner for promotions, building designs, a liaison person with government agencies, and marketing building vacancies — these are a few of the results of six months of the Business Improvement District. What more could six more months do for the Rapid City downtown city center?

DON YEOMAN
2422 Central
Rapid City

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We are all downtown business people for different reasons. My business could be anywhere. It is definitely a specialty shop. I choose for it to be in downtown Rapid City.

I don't fit the "retail mold." My business seasons are absolutely the opposite of my retailing neighbors. But our goal is the same — survival of downtown Rapid City — hopefully with a profit.

The Downtown Development Commission really has never suited my needs because of my seasonal differences, but I have always been very supportive — and I am fully behind downtown development and the desire to unify our area.

I will not benefit from cooperative advertising or seasonal promotions, but I am still willing to invest in downtown Rapid City because there is so much more than that to promote our area. Separately and voluntarily we can't do it — or won't do it! United, we can.

A very hard working and dedicated group of professionals are working on Business Improvement District (BID). I feel a fair and reasonable decision can be reached. I will support that decision because I can only gain, everyone can only gain, by voting "no" on Dec. 4.

WANITA GRAVATT
P.O. Box 2108
Rapid City

Downtown BID

I would like to take this opportunity to express my full and wholehearted support for the implementation of a Business Improvement District in downtown Rapid City.

Although I am what may be commonly referred to as "the new kid on the block," I have learned in my short 6 1/2 years in business the importance of working together to improve the business climate; not only for the citizens of Rapid City, but for those clients I serve from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and Nebraska. I believe this BID district will create a bond of unity and positive direction in what is already a great and large regional shopping area.

The location of my highly competitive business has been superior. So superior, in fact, that I am investigating the possibility of expanding my present business to twice the square footage that I currently occupy.

I will be most happy to discuss my thoughts on this issue with anyone, at a time and place convenient to all parties. For the best interests of downtown Rapid City, please vote "no" on Dec. 4.

JAY E. HOGAN
president
Universal Travel, Inc.
507 Sixth Street
Rapid City

Downtown BID

The "handful of dissidents" and the "handful of opponents" against BID are not in opposition to a better downtown Rapid City. The opposite is true; the "handful" desire a better downtown. The disgruntlement arises from the contents of House Bill No. 1056. The structure of this bill allows the mayor and the common council to levy a special assessment and/or bond on the BID district with no election required. This in essence puts yet another tax burden on downtown property owners, thus in bondage, being required to render fiscal homage to the select few.

Excessive taxes on anything, especially real estate, only reduce and

destroy property values. If anyone is naive enough to believe their home or commercial building increases in value when additional taxes are levied by a governing body, he should think again — the value plummets.

So far, BID administrative costs have been stupendous, and indications are that they will increase further. At this writing, there is nothing on the horizon for a better downtown as a result of this negative taxation.

Please save downtown and the small property owner; vote "yes" on Dec. 4.

DORRANCE A. DUSEK
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Rapid City