



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

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September 21, 2018

Rapid City Common Council
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: Resolution in Support of New IHS Hospital

Dear Council Members:

Over the last several months I have been in communication with representatives from the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe regarding Indian health care. My conversations, specifically with the Unified Tribal Chairman's Health Board, have centered on the lack of adequate healthcare for tribal members. As you may know, the situation is nothing short of an Indian healthcare crisis and it is only getting worse over time.

Fairly recently, Congress appropriated funds to construct a new Indian health services (IHS) hospital in Rapid City. The tribes are now joining forces to assume some control over where the new hospital is built and perhaps how it is administered. Other tribes throughout the nation have successfully gone through this process (related to Public Law 93-638) which in practical terms, and in my own words, amounts to a procedural dispute with IHS. The overall motivation of the tribes is to achieve accessible, quality Indian healthcare in Rapid City, the lack of which has been a significant detriment to the Indian people of Rapid City and the surrounding areas for decades.

A local developer, Hani Shafai, has agreed to donate land for the new hospital in his proposed Shepherd Hills development. The advantage to this proposal is the additional housing to be built on site as well as being in close proximity to main arterial roads, essential services, and an educational institution (Western Dakota Technical Institute). This location will allow for collaboration between the healthcare facility and the Western Dakota Technical Institute to allow for better recruitment and assist in the success of both institutions.

The tribes are anxious to improve Indian health care in Rapid City and there is a way for us to help. The tribes are formally asking for our support of their proposal. They have drafted a resolution (attached) in hopes you will give your formal unanimous support.



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

I will be placing this resolution on the September 26th Legal & Finance agenda, followed by the October 1st City Council agenda. If you have questions or concerns, please let me know as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Allender". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Allender, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota

RESOLUTION 2018-073

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RELOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION
OF A NEW INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITAL IN RAPID CITY**

WHEREAS, Congress has authorized the construction of a new Indian Health Service (IHS) health facility in Rapid City; and

WHEREAS, while the IHS has been considering constructing the new facility at the existing Sioux San site on the west side of Rapid City, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board has identified an alternative site for the health facility on East Anamosa Street in the Shepherd Hills area; and

WHEREAS, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board has proposed the construction of the new facility at the Shepherd Hills site and the expansion of behavioral health services at the existing Sioux San facility; and

WHEREAS, a new facility at an alternative site can be developed and built without causing any disruption in health services, whereas the Sioux San site would need to be carefully phased in order to continue essential health services to the service population during construction; and

WHEREAS, there are areas within Rapid City that would be more convenient and accessible for the beneficiaries of IHS health facility services; and

WHEREAS, a new health facility could support, and benefit from, the health care education programs at Western Dakota Technical Institute, which collaborates with the Health Board on education components aimed at the particular needs of Native communities and populations; and

WHEREAS, an alternative site could be developed to provide more flexibility in space and design of a facility that will best meet the health care needs of the service population; and

WHEREAS, an alternative site will also allow the project to avoid issues related to historic preservation, in contrast to the Sioux San site, which includes many structures eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places, some of which the IHS proposes to raze as part of a new facility construction project at Sioux San; and

WHEREAS, for many years the Sioux San Hospital provided in-patient and emergency services to its patients, but recently IHS stopped providing such services; and

WHEREAS, an alternative site would allow for the possibility of future expansion into in-patient and emergency care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council that the City of Rapid City supports an alternative site for the new IHS health facility to improve its accessibility to patients and to avoid the demolition of historic structures in the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of Rapid City also supports the resumption of in-patient and emergency services to the IHS beneficiaries at the Rapid City Service Unit.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2018.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

By _____
Steve Allender, Mayor

Attest

Pauline Sumption, Finance Officer

(seal)