

Gene Tyon, Oaye Luta Okolakiciye

Taken from L&F Meeting – January 30, 2019:

Gene Tyon, Director of Oeye Luta Okolakiciye, spoke regarding an application he previously submitted for Community Development Block Grant funds which was not recommended for funding. He is requesting the application be reconsidered. Mr. Tyon shared a handout out and presented an overview of the program. The program is a non-profit cultural based recovery program dedicated to healing traumatic behavioral issues affecting the Rapid City Native American community with the focus on cultural identity development that covers many areas. Oeye Luta Okolakiciye is currently working with Hani Shafi and has office space located at 201 Kansas City Street.

Taken from L&F Meeting – February 13, 2019:

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Gene Tyon is asking for reconsideration of their application for Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG). Mr. Tyon works in the substance abuse and recovery field. The Oaye Luta Okolakiciye is a nonprofit cultural based program with a focus on cultural identity development for those who have been disconnected from their way of life for a variety of reasons. They would like to use the funds for rent of pending office space with Hani Shafi on Kansas City Street and start-up costs. Mr. Tyon provided a packet of information on the program to committee members.

Taken from City Council Proceeding - February 19, 2019 meeting:

General public comment made at City Council meeting Feb. 19, 2019

Gene Tyon, Director of non-profit organization Oaye Luta (which translates into moving forward in a sacred way), spoke to the council. He said they are a culturally based recovery program. He is asking for reconsideration of CDBG funding. They would use the funding for rent on a building for their services. Program is cultural based on Lakota cultural spirituality for those suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. He believes utilizing a cultural approach would help adjust their behaviors. They have several cultural programs to help the Native American people.