September 24th, 2019

Memo to: City of Rapid City – Common Council
From: Karl Jegeris – Chief of Police
Subject: Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board’s SAMHSA/Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program

As you know, youth suicide has impacted our community on several occasions recently. I am very appreciative of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board’s leadership efforts to develop a comprehensive prevention and education strategy to address this in an effective way. Police officers are often the main referral services for emergency mental health interventions due to the trust we have built with at-risk youth in our community. It is for this reason they have asked for our partnership. This will allow us to increase our presence in the schools with the addition of one FTE Police Officer for five years. It will also allow for additional technical assistance, specifically related to suicide prevention for the collaborative effort.

The Rapid City Police Department was asked to participate in the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program. The RCPD is designated as a subrecipient of this grant and will be subawarded salary and fringe benefits ($341,080.20) for one School Resource Officer for the five-year life of the grant. As part of the grant agreement, the role of the School Resource Officer will be dedicated to youth suicide prevention and outreach working with the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board Connecting With Our Youth team. The RCPD is a designated as a sub-recipient of this grant, which requires no match.

We are requesting authorization to accept the sub-award and implement the program. Should you have concerns regarding this matter, you can contact me at your convenience. I’d like to express my appreciation to Jerilyn Church and the rest of the staff at GPTCHB for including our department in this important community endeavor.