February 5, 2020

Memo to:  Mayor Steve Allender and City Council
From:    Karl Jegeris, Chief of Police
Subject: 2020 COPS (Community Oriented Policing) CHP (Cops Hiring Program) Grant

It is the desire of the Rapid City Police Department to apply, and, if awarded, accept the 2020 COPS (Community Oriented Policing) CHP (Cops Hiring Program) Grant. The 2020 CHP awards will cover up to 75 percent of the approved entry-level salary and fringe benefits of each newly hired full-time sworn law enforcement officer over the three-year (36-month) award period, with a minimum 25 percent local salary match requirement and maximum federal share of $125,000 per officer. The total grant funding would equate to $375,000 dollars from the Department of Justice.

We are requesting the grant to create a proactive unit of three officers dedicated to youth engagement, outreach, and enforcement. This unit would be created to adapt our community policing techniques to focus on juveniles in a concerted effort to reduce the alarming rise in violence and drug abuse impacting our youth. The unit would be modeled from the lessons learned and best practices created from our Quality of Life Unit, focused on reducing trauma and harm that impacts our youth.