

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF RAPID CITY  
AND THE MNILUZAHAN OKOLAKICIYAPI AMBASSADORS, ESTABLISHING A  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPROVING RACE RELATIONS IN RAPID  
CITY.**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into between the City of Rapid City, a municipal corporation of the State of South Dakota, and Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors (MOA).

WHEREAS, The Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors, a group of Native and non-Native community leaders and stakeholders has since 2014 been working to “BEAM” (Bridge cultures, Educate ourselves and others, Advocate and Model behavior we want to see in others) in an effort to improve race relations in Rapid City; and

WHEREAS, with the increased awareness of racial inequities being at an all-time high since the death of George Floyd and the recent protests at Mount Rushmore, the need for MOA’s work in Rapid City is greater than ever; and

WHEREAS, last year the Mayor convened a task force to recommend a course of action for the future of the Rapid City Human Relations Commission (HRC), a City-sponsored group dedicated to handling discrimination claims within City limits; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the HRC Task Force’s meetings, they determined that while some of the HRC’s duties were redundant, the need for the group clearly still exists; and

WHEREAS, when the Task Force became aware of MOA and their work, they determined that the two groups share similar missions; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has a strong desire to address race relations in Rapid City in a way that is inclusive, not punitive, and without duplicating work already being done; and

WHEREAS, MOA would like to seek financial support from private donors and grants to continue its work; and

WHEREAS, a partnership with the City would give MOA a permanent home and make it more competitive when seeking outside funding with the commitment and stability a home within the City would offer; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force is recommending a continuation of the HRC with a change in its operations, along with a merger with MOA, to continue improving race relations in Rapid City;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree to merge the former Rapid City Human Relations Commission and MOA, with the following terms:

1. The City will provide office space and support for the new Commission/MOA and its staff, along with meeting space for the full Commission.
2. The City, with input from current MOAs, will appoint a total of nine (9) Commissioners to begin the work of rebuilding the HRC in accordance with the Task Force's written recommendations.
3. MOA will seek both private and grant funds to continue the work of improving race relations, along with the newly formed HRC, to cover operating expenses during the first year. All private and grant funds raised shall be managed by the City.
4. The City agrees to consider funding a full-time Executive Director for the newly formed partnership in 2021, to oversee the work of the newly formed HRC and MOA. See the attached Job Description. The eventual goal is to have both staff and operating expenses split evenly between the City and outside sources.
5. MOA will work with the newly formed HRC to rewrite its ordinance and bylaws for the Rapid City Common Council's approval sometime in 2021.
6. The newly formed partnership between the HRC and MOA will begin its work in accordance with the Task Force's written recommendations (see attached).

CITY OF RAPID CITY

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Steve Allender, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pauline Sumption, Finance Officer

MNILUZAHAN OKOLAKICIYAPI  
AMBASSADORS

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BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director