

Name: Sandra Thielen

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. She should NOT be removed from here role as president of the city council and her Facebook page listing Rapid City businesses that follow CDC guidelines should not be taken down. This page is helpful to people who have health issues and want to support local businesses.

Name: Marcia Dunsmore

Address

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page; Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

Councilwoman Armstrong should be commended for her efforts to provide information to citizens who want to protect their health and support businesses that follow CDC guidelines. She did not blacklist any businesses. I appreciate her leadership on the council and want it to continue.

Name: Joyce Payton

Address:

Meeting:

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

January 18, 2021

Dear Mayor Allender and City Council Members

I am writing today in support of Council Woman and President Laura Armstrong. I believe Laura is doing her job, she is committed to her post on the council, she is an active citizen of RC and she speaks up when she see something that interests her, either positive or negative. There is nothing wrong with that. She is respectful with her words and actions.

Can we please be done with this bickering? What is happening in RC is nothing more or less than what is happening on the National level. I would like to see the bullies that are currently using their loud voices, be sent to time out. Enough of this! Let's find a place where RC residents can get along. We have done it in the past and we can do it once again. I know we are never going to agree on everything, but the bullying has to stop.

Most Sincerely Yours

Joyce Payton

Name: Joanna Lawler

Address:.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong and the Facebook page "Caring Businesses of Rapid City."

I rely on shared community knowledge to help inform where I'm willing to shop in Rapid City. I feel unsafe in public because so few people wear masks. I have supported some local businesses with online shopping, and I have been able to go in person to some I know will be safe based on information I have learned from other citizens online. This page has no "naughty" list, which any visitor to it could easily see.

And I certainly am not willing to attend City Council meetings in person based on the behavior I have seen. Please don't confuse lack of physical presence at a meeting with lack of support for common sense health measures -- or for Laura Armstrong.

Information about health guidelines helps local businesses because it increases the number of people like me who are willing to go to them. Thank you to those who help provide information.

Name: Margaret Saunders

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

This is a letter of support for Laura Armstrong. I appreciate her attention to science and fact, especially in regard to the pandemic. I am 67 and have health conditions that could make it more dangerous for me if I contract COVID-19. I cannot come to Council meetings in person to advocate for her because so many unmasked people are there that I do not feel the meetings are safe. I have used the Caring Businesses of Rapid City website several times, and it has helped me locate safe places to shop. This helps the community in two ways: the money I spend goes directly into local businesses, and the local sales tax supports Rapid City projects.

Laura Armstrong is a reality-based, critical thinker. Her perspective and skills are an asset to the Council and to all Rapid Citians. We're lucky to have her, and I urge the Council to follow the will of the voters to let her finish out her term.

Name: Jim Peterson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: FacebookPage Caring Businesses

Comment:

I haven't agreed with every position my Councilperson Laura Armstrong has taken, but there is a difference between political disagreement and personal assault, particularly when Laura is doing the right thing for our community. Although most of our leadership have lacked the courage, or the intellect to understand the irrefutable science around saving lives through the simple act of wearing a mask, she has not. To encourage citizens to go to businesses that protect the health of their families, as opposed to those that kowtow to the anti-mask crowd, is her duty. We have personal freedoms sure, but when I spent 25 years in the military, zipped more than a few of my comrades up in body bags, and had my only son serve three tours in Iraq, it wasn't to support anyone's right to launch, ill-informed, misogynist attacks on those that serve us. We are losing a 9-11's worth of American's every day; lets support Laura's efforts to stop that!

Name: Jean Katus

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

This comment is in support of Laura Armstrong. I believe she is being harassed by those who disagree with her Facebook posting. Yet, she has done nothing wrong and is simply exercising her Constitutional right to free speech. I strongly urge the Council to stand with Ms. Armstrong to retain her leadership role; to retain her membership in the Council as a whole; and to retain her Facebook post. No punishment is warranted. Thank you.

Name: George Bauder

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702-8977

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am compelled to express my positive feelings regarding Laura Armstrong, a member of the Rapid City Common Council.

Ms. Armstrong is and has been a strong leader for this community. She is a woman. Some elements of our community just do not seem to be able to effectively interact with persons having either one of those characteristics.

The concept of sharing the position of businesses in this community regarding the wearing of masks is a great idea. Personally, I look to see whether people entering a place of business are wearing or placing a mask over their nose and mouth. If they don't, I don't enter. If the business owner doesn't require a mask...I probably will not require the services or merchandise of that business. But I have the right to know.

Name: Sybille Hanson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has spent countless hours advocating for the citizens of Rapid City! She has worked tirelessly to keep all of us safe during this pandemic. She deserves to be thanked for her efforts. Anything less would be a grave injustice.

Name: Patricia Sutliff

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I wish to express my support for Laura Armstrong. She is doing a great job as City Council president trying to protect those of us in our city. It has been scientifically shown that wearing masks and distancing help prevent the spread of COVID 19 and for her to express this publicly was very brave and important. What have we come to that we do not value each other? That we threaten each other for having different opinions than our own. All people are important and if we can help protect each other why wouldn't we?

Name: Sharlyn Swenson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong and her efforts to protect us with a mask mandate. This is a public health issue not freedom or liberty!

Thank you Laura,

Sharlyn Swenson

Name: Linda A Antolic

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Caring Business Facebook page

Comment:

I am writing to express my support of Council member, Laura Armstrong. There is a faction that is criticizing and threatening Laura due to her support of Caring Business of Rapid City. The purpose of that Facebook page is informational and positive and we are especially grateful for it as my husband and I both have health issues which require extreme vigilance to avoid being exposed to COVID 19. We like to support Rapid City businesses but do not feel we can if the use of CDC guidelines are not adhered to. We were very disappointed that the City Council voted down a mask mandate for Rapid City due to pressure from those selfish individuals that somehow believe this is a rights issue and not a public health issue. Please dismiss all complaints about Laura and this Facebook page.

Name: Susan Hey

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page: Caring businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

Dear Council Members,

This letter is in support of Laura Armstrong and her work to keep Rapid City safer in these unprecedented times.

I think the Facebook page is a fine idea to assist those who are more concerned about their health. It seems that it would actually help business for more people to know they can shop comfortably, rather than fear coming down town.

I also believe that there would have been more visible support at public meetings for those favoring mask wearing, if EVERYONE attending and commenting actually wore masks. Meetings do not appear safe to many of us.

I appreciate and support Laura Armstrong as a caring leader in these difficult times.

Thank you all for your work on these issues.

Sincerely, Susan Hey

Name: Laurie Gehner

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong's efforts to advise and inform RC's citizens and visitors on the businesses that promote and follow CDC guidelines.

Name: Carl Meyer

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I've learned that Council President Laura Armstrong is under attack due to her association with the Facebook page "Caring Businesses of Rapid City." These attacks are baseless and the Council should dismiss them.

There is nothing wrong with this FB page. It positively promotes businesses that respect CDC guidelines for protecting the health of our citizens in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a valuable and potentially life-saving service, especially for members of our community with health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. The page does not negatively report on any business.

Please don't assume that in-person presence at council meetings during this pandemic accurately reflects our community; many of us would not risk our or others' health by showing up in person, indoors, where we know people who are unwilling to wear masks for all of our protection will be present.

Name: Stephen Manlove

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I write in support of Laura Armstrong. I believe that all the work Ms. Armstrong has been done has been aimed toward helping our community. She realized the problems the pandemic presented to our community and tried to help people who cared about it. Caring Businesses in Rapid City has been an important site for people who are trying to stay safe from the virus. The complaints against her seem to be nothing more than an attempt to scar a political rival.

Thank you for reading this.

Steve Manlove Md

Name: Dorothy M Rosby

Address:

Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask policy

Comment:

I am writing to express my support and appreciation of Laura Armstrong, President of the City Council for her courage and wisdom in addressing the COVID crisis. Wearing a mask under current circumstances is just common sense. It should never have become a political issue but now that it is, I know she and others on the council who encourage mask wearing are under attack. I for one am grateful they remain strong in the face of such behavior.

Name: Shelli Vallis

Address:

Rapid City,SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: In support of Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am disgusted that any person or group would spread such vitriolic comments directed toward Laura. The wearing of masks ? is plainly a public health and safety measure! Knowing safe places in my community to shop has been extremely important for our elders and anyone suffering from chronic illness. Laura has been such a conscientious, caring person and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Thank you, Laura! Keep up your good work!

Name: Donna Robinson

Address

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: support for councilperson Armstrong

Comment:

I offer my support for Laura Armstrong. The council may have the impression that Laura Armstrong doesn't have wide support because I do not attend the meetings due to the contingent that does not wear masks. I am unwilling to risk exposing myself to non mask public. Her involvement with Caring Business is a service and offers information. It is valuable to me to know if a business requires masks. I would choose to be a patron. It may also be just as useful if you did not support masks decide not to go. There- by avoid the businesses and not be subjected to liberal shenanigans.

Regardless, it is Laura Armstrong's right to post as she deems fit.

Armstrong's dedication to the city council and the citizens is valuable. She represents her ward and the city well. She should not be attacked and criticized on this topic.

Name: Sandra Kaitfors

Address:

Rapid City SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has done nothing except assist those of us who choose to shop safely. This woman's voice needs to remain on Council and continue to speak for people like me. I am taking this pandemic seriously and appreciate leaders who do the same. Threats upon her and her family must stop.

Name: Jane O'Leary

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I would like to offer my support of Laura Armstrong. As a fairly new person to the workings of city government, I have found Laura to be helpful, open, creative and a really good listener. It saddens me to see how what was meant as a positive tool for our community has become a rallying cry for Laura's dismissal. We need people like Laura in our community, especially as a community leader. I implore the Council to cease the divisive conversations and focus on what will make Rapid City a better community. We are better with and because of Laura Armstrong.

Name: Jim Simons

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in RC

Comment:

Writing to support councilperson Laura Armstrong against criticism of the FB page she helped develop listing businesses that require facemark wearing. This is a helpful page which only lists businesses that follow CDC guidelines and does NOT blacklist those that don't! There is nothing wrong with that, and everything right. How ridiculous that ALL businesses don't require facemasks since they are proven effective in decreasing the Covid spread. And how embarrassing that the RC Council couldn't come up with a plan to require facemarks in the city.

Anti-masking bullies should study a bit of science and wise-up. Leave an effective and hardworking council person alone! In no way should the RC Council cave in to this kind of character assassination of Laura Armstrong.

Name: Dr Michael Hudgens

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong's credentials are exemplary, and she will carry out her duties as President and Council member.

Calls to remove her are politically motivated and without merit.

Name: Susan A. Hudgens

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City businesses

Comment:

Please disregard all the disinformation, chatter, & gossip surrounding the issue of removing Laura Armstrong from the Council. The contentious group pushing for this are wasting the Council's time and continue to create discord & dissension in the community. Allegations against Laura Armstrong are ludicrous & unfounded. Laura has been professional, ethical, and upholds her agreed-upon & sworn responsibilities as a Council member/presiding President. There is nothing in her conduct the entire time she has been on the Council to specify removal. She has indicated more than once she takes her sworn oath seriously, & despite being accosted, accused & threatened she continues to do so. The published list of businesses asking masks be worn is good information to have and is an accepted and well-publicized recommendation by the CDC. It is also one of the ways we can protect each other & help prevent the spread of COVID-19. I'm grateful for it.

Name: Jocelyn (Jocie) Baker

Address:

Rapid City 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is a person who is very concerned about the health of our community and has expressed that concern by informing the public of businesses that require the wearing of facial masks. I thank Laura Armstrong for informing all of us about the importance of wearing a mask in public and for being concerned that residents of Rapid City do not become ill and possibly die from the Covid19 virus. We owe heartfelt thanks to Laura Armstrong, rather than criticism or condemnation. She is an asset to the City Council and, as council chairperson, is doing a fantastic job. Jocelyn Baker

Name: Brian Bach

Address

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Facebook Page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

It has come to my attention that a group of Rapid City citizens are outraged with Laura Armstrong. As I understand it Armstrong promoted a Facebook page that highlighted local businesses that were following the CDC Pandemic Guidelines like wearing masks and remaining distanced. I understand that there are 90 or so complaints and that they are derived from the same group.

I fully support Laura Armstrong in this matter and it is my wish that the City Council dismiss the complaints to focus on more important national/state/city concerns.

Name: Becky Goodwin

Address:

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks. Armstrong

Comment:

Hello,

I just wanted to take a moment to Express my gratitude for leaders like Armstrong.

My family and I have found her page to be extremely helpful to ensure our continued safety and health during this pandemic.

I find the page to be a positive way to share local businesses that are following CDC guidelines.

Much thanks to Armstrong and her continued leadership in our city.

Thank you for your time.

Becky Goodwin

Name: susan campo

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: FaceBook page

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrongthe FaceBook page only lists CDC compliant businesses. I NEED TO KNOW THIS INFORMATION. It in no way blacklists any other businesses. I cant come to public group meetings where people do not wear masks and stand apart because I am in a very vulnerable physical state.

Name: Deanna Lassegard

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am pleased to drop a quick line in support of Mrs. Armstrong, she is not my elected ward representative, but I find the attacks on her to be misdirected and political bullying. Attacking people you do not agree with is petty, please do not play into the petty name calling of people asking for her censure or resignation. They are a vocal angry few and do not represent a majority.

Name: Vince Vidal

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57791

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Since this Pandemic, affecting US all, Airmen have been directed to use caution in our community and to faithfully follow CDC guidelines, and they are directed to wear masks.

Opponents of masks seem willing to "close doors" to those mandated to wear masks as these Airmen must avoid those businesses in non compliance of CDC guidelines.

I know our businesses would never intentionally shut out our Airmen.

They could, if for no other reason than by thanking them for their service by wearing masks in our businesses would have been a businesses move.

The intention of these two women (Laura Armstrong and Natalie LaFrance Slack) shows a strong support of those serving in defense of freedom by showing them their masks and supporting those mandated to wear masks in our community and businesses.

Name: Tessa LaHaie

Address:.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I'm writing in support of Council President Laura Armstrong. The allegations and personal attacks against her because of a Facebook page she co-administrated is ridiculous.

The city should be proud to have a member and leader who cares so passionately for its citizens, their health and public safety.

Name: Rebecca Jones

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Facebook Page: Caring Business

Comment:

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I feel Laura Armstrong DID NOT abuse her position of Leadership on the City Council. I was encouraged when I found out there were stores, in Rapid City, I could shop at and be worry free about people NOT wearing masks. The complaints against her should be dismissed. Laura was only trying to protect people who believed in wearing masks. In fact, if this had been done sooner, we may have saved lives and had a better economy. I would have felt safe shopping in RC rather than online. Please, I implore you to dismiss these complaints against Laura.

Thank You,

Rebecca Jones

Name: Kimberly Hayden

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Re: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I would like to express my support of Laura Armstrong. She provides a balanced, scientific based approach to our city council. Whether you agree with some of her views or not, does not deter from the value of the council to hear them and promote meaningful conversation, the essence of government. Please do not turn the Caring Businesses of Rapid City Facebook page into something it is not based on hearsay and attacks. It is strictly informative and an asset to the community at this time. Any sort of condemnation of her will also set an inappropriate precedent as any city council member who attends an event or promotes veteran owned, women owned, indigenous owned, downtown specific business as "hurting other businesses" under the ruse of being "fair". This is a politically motivated movement and the common sense Rapid City residents do not want to start down this path of pettiness.

Name: Dustin Heida

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Here in support of Laura Armstrong. I appreciate her efforts towards the vulnerable in our community.

Name: Karen Pettigrew

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Status of Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I strongly support retaining Alderwoman, Laura Armstrong. She has been an exceptionally committed representative for not only Ward 5, but for the interests of everyone in Rapid City. She shown herself to be diligent, caring and creative in her solution-oriented approach to issues of concern in our city. Her participation in providing a social media listing of local businesses that follow the CDC COVID-19 guidelines was a useful way to provide factual information for the community. I believe that businesses that that allow those public health guidelines to be optional should also provide that information to the public because there are citizens who prefer that expression of personal freedom by those with whom they do business. Knowing the facts is always a good thing. Also, the claim that Ms. Armstrong exhibited a condescending attitude is not worthy of consideration when the totality of her contribution as a council member is examined.

Name: Bonny Peterson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: FacebookPage Caring Businesses

Comment:

I support Ms. Armstrong. The page has 1 effect--to increase support of local business & lower community loss. The vulnerable & their families could shop locally-they knew where it was safer to go. Otherwise, their dollars would have been spent online elsewhere. Neighbor's benefit: those with poor immune systems, asthma, cancer, diabetes, and elderly. COVID costs. Besides death, injury, and loss of productivity, it adds to Medicaid and Medicare costs. The hospitals are hurt by extra costs & loss of critical income from less elective surgeries. Those that lost jobs & insurance can't pay their health bill. Students aren't being educated as well. We risk increased homelessness. These are some of the impacts of COVID the FB page helped reduce. Ms. Armstrong should be commended! As we near 400,000 deaths, the # lost in WWII, we need to remember we are all in this together. We have different needs, but we all need a community that cares.

Name: Naidine J Adams

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong, who has always impressed me as a sensible, compassionate, tactful, responsible and enlightened elected official. She is concerned with all issues of public safety, but has not imposed restrictions on businesses or "blacklisted" any of them. We in Rapid City are lucky to have her as a member of the city council. I am disappointed that people have been persecuting her.

Name: Tara Banes

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Council Member Commit

Comment:

I had to lose hours because my business was slow. My business was also put on list that Laura Armstrong made shaming for not wearing masks. She made it an issue not the people of this town. She needs to keep her personal options to herself. There are a lot of people who choose not to wear masks and a lot of business that choose it as well. So to shame and call attention to that like it's wrong makes her wrong. She needs to lose her social media rights.

Name: Carol E. Bell

Address:.

Rapid City, South Dakota

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I am in support of the FB Caring Businesses Facebook Page. This page was conceived after the City Council was bullied into tabling the revised mask resolution which would have identified which business were safe for persons immunocompromised like myself. I am also writing to tell all the City Council Mebers and leaders that I and my family support Laura Armstrong as a member, Council President and a caring and committed advocate for ALL citizens. The compromised she tried to pass was listening to All citizens. This attack on Council Pres. Ms. Armstrong is only a minority of vocal citizens who can not think of the health and safety other citizens like my family and many of my friends.

Name: Patricia Rogge

Address

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring businesses I Rapid City

Comment:

I commend Laura Armstrong for informing people about businesses that practice safeguarding their employees and customers from the Covid virus. If more people had taken this virus seriously SD would have had fewer deaths. SD economy would have still thrived....even with a mask mandate. And what of Laura Armstrong's freedom of speech.....since conservatives are so concerned about Trump's freedom of speech on social media being denied? What he has tweeted over four years, especially recently, makes her look like a saint.

Name: Karen Raben

Address:.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page:Caring Business in Rapid City

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong.

I am a retired resident living in Rapid City. I am at high risk for getting Covid19. I do not understand why some people are so resistant to wearing masks. It should not be a political issue and wearing masks is clearly a sign of being polite and caring about people around you.

I appreciate Laura Armstrong's action to follow CDC's guidelines and listing businesses that require masks and make it safer for people to patronize these businesses. Laura is a hard working Rapid City Council President and cares deeply about Rapid City citizens.

Thanks you.

Name: Paula Long Fox

Address:

1

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is a positive individual leading our city in a caring healthy direction. I support and applaud her work as our City Council president.

The group complaining about her support of a positive face book page have the right to be heard. However it feels like they are engaging in intimidation and bullying when they demand her removal, because she doesn't fall on the same side of a topic as them.

Please, let's continue to move forward with the City Council as it is. After all this community elected each of you to lead us in a positive way into the future.

Thank you,

Paula Long Fox.

Name: jan Mangelsen

Address:

Rapid City, S.D.

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: laura armstrong complaints

Comment:

I want to commend Laura on her work to get a mask mandate for the city. I live outside of the city limits, but shop in the city. I am 71 yrs old and have 2 risk factors. So I am very concerned about contracting Covid. I have not come to the meetings because of the non-enforcement of the mandate. I feel that Laura is a very caring and intelligent council member and I appreciate her efforts to protect our community. Out of respect for our health, I feel that all public comments should be read at the council meetings.

Name: Shad Storm

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I am a voting resident of Ward 5. I completely support Laura Armstrong as my council representative and a representative of the Rapid City Common Council. I feel she has been excellent for Ward 5 and the entire city of Rapid City. She represents fairly and for the entire community. I ask you to dismiss the complaints about her immediately. I see no reason for the council to spend any time on the complaints against her or the requests to discipline her. Time spent on this issue is a waste of the citizens' and Rapid City's resources and reduces productivity. The council will do more good working to maintain and improve the quality and safety of Rapid City than on the false accusations. I appreciate being informed about which businesses comply with the CDC guidelines of wearing masks to protect my health as well as my friends/family members/citizens/visitors. Thank you moving forward without spending any more time on this issue.

Name: Diane M Grant

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I want to voice my support for Laura Armstrong and her Facebook entry listing businesses who follow CDC guidelines. If a business chooses not to require a mask during this Covid pandemic, it is also MY choice whether I want to enter their establishment or not. This is a service to the community, allowing us to decide where we want to shop or dine. It is not an attempt to blacklist those businesses who have opted not to follow the recommended guidelines. Ms. Armstrong should not be penalized or ostracized for providing welcome information. The anti-mask people may not like the post, but they have also made THEIR choice. Freedom of speech needs to prevail.

Name: Daria McGrath

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

Dear Rapid City Common Council,

I ask your vote of confidence for Council President Laura Armstrong. I have been grateful for her assistance with a website that helps me live safely during this pandemic. It is a blessing for those of us that follow CDC guidelines. I am a cancer survivor and I don't take chances with my health; however, even without a preexisting condition, I would follow CDC guidelines. I don't frequent businesses, meetings, or functions that don't require a mask. I wear a mask everywhere I go because I care about the people in my community not because I'm making a political statement. I believe the CDC recommendations. I urge you to honor and support Laura Armstrong's presidency.

Sincerely,

Daria McGrath

Name: Dorothy A. Brewick

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

The Facebook page in question lists businesses that pledge to follow CDC guidelines. I have never seen a blacklist of any businesses. I appreciate knowing which businesses follow CDC guidelines so I know which businesses care about my health and safety. I need to know where masks will be worn by workers and shoppers so I do NOT necessarily put my life in danger. I am grateful to Laura Armstrong and everyone who made this effort to keep members of the community informed. I did not attend the Council meetings because of the people who were entering City Admin Building WITHOUT masks. If this harassment of our Council President is allowed, eventually we will have fewer and fewer candidates for public office and that is a very bad thing for democracy. Thank you, Dorothy Rowdy Brewick

Name: Karen Hall

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Complaints against Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Please recognize that Laura Armstrong, instead of "blacklisting" businesses, has only provided a resource for people who are concerned about safety while they shop and dine in and around Rapid City. I applaud her efforts, and those of the others who helped to set up the Facebook page in question, which only identifies businesses that require their patrons to wear masks. No blacklist! Also, while she chooses to wear a mask in public, she has not insisted that those attending city council meetings (WITHOUT masks in a mask-mandated building) wear them. She has NOT tried to enforce the mask mandate.

The complaints against her also claim she's "condescending." As far as I know, even if it's true (which, knowing Laura, I'm sure it's not!), is that a reason to remove people from leadership or from the council altogether? NO. Please don't let these bullies remove an honest, caring public servant from her position.

Name: Julie Schmitz Jensen

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page "Caring Businesses in Rapid City"

Comment:

I have already submitted a letter to the City Council, yet I feel I need to reiterate that Visit Rapid City added the "Caring Businesses in RC" Facebook Page to the COVID -19 section of our website sometime between June 24-26, 2020 and NOT ONE PERSON OR BUSINESS COMPLAINED until I received a call from Councilman Weifenbach. Expedia Travel says: "9 in 10 travelers want to see information on health, hygiene, and cleanliness to help inform their leisure travel considerations. Above all else, travelers want to be reassured that it is safe to travel, and they're looking to travel brands and other resources for relevant information." Visit Rapid City was simply doing our job. We believe we made a good decision at the time and fully support Councilwoman Armstrong's efforts to help local residents AND visitors make informed decisions. This criticism of Ms. Armstrong is misguided and is politics at its worst. Please put an end to it.

Name: Paula Wilkinson Smith

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: "Caring businesses in Rapid City"

Comment:

I have lived in Rapid City for over 60 yrs, raised my family here enjoyed all the wonderful things about our community, our beautiful area I have not spoken out before, yet today is a time I must speak out. I am speaking out in support of Laura Armstrong. We need people like Laura; her commitment & dedication to finding solutions & focusing on working together. Rapid City, in my experience, has risen above & looked for ways to join together during tragedy or challenges - we know how to do that. Please dismiss the allegations directed towards Laura. We can solve issues & concerns differently in Rapid City. We can do better than the recent allegations directed towards her display. Please find a way through this most recent challenge in a manner in which we can be proud. Thank you.

Name: Kristen Lone Anderson

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

While I live in Pennington County, outside Rapid City limits, I follow local news via the RCJ. I shop and otherwise visit Rapid. I feel compelled to put in my two cents for Ms. Armstrong. I appreciate Ms. Armstrong's naming local businesses that adhere to CDC requirements. Her efforts to help guide those who are particularly vulnerable to covid are demonstrative of someone caring beyond herself. She is not damning or slighting anyone. From the beginning of this epidemic, I do wear a mask - most of the time. There are limited and rare occasions I remove mine indoors while shopping. I deeply appreciate those who also protect me and themselves by wearing masks. Those who choose to go maskless, while I consider them uninformed and self-interested in these times, I let them pass unchided. But I feel the attacks on Armstrong are spiteful, mean-spirited, and wrongly placed in a time like this.

Name: cynthia Rains

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: FB page:Caring Businesses in RC

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has helped create a page on FB that is extremely valuable to us who are vulnerable to this deadly virus. We can see what businesses have taken the proper CDC recommended guidelines so we can avoid exposure!! Please let us live, we are productive citizens in this community with underlying health issues and CANNOT risk exposure to covid 19!!!!!! We believe the science about covid 19 and therefore need this information. Why on Gods green earth would anyone criticize someone for helping us live safely???? Laura Armstrong is a hero and should be treated accordingly!!!!!!!

Name: The Rev. Cody Maynus

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I'm writing in support of Laura Armstrong and to insist the City Council throw out frivolous complaints against Ms. Armstrong. It is clear that Ms. Armstrong was exercising her constitutionally-guaranteed right to free speech when she, along with a number of others, created the Facebook group "Caring Business of Rapid City." At no point did that group, nor Ms. Armstrong, condemn any business in Rapid City. The group merely curated the opinions (again, constitutionally-protected) of citizens in our community. The complaints lodged against her are politically-motivated and do not reflect the best interests of our community, of which Ms. Armstrong is a tireless and passionate advocate. Our nation and our community need healing, not further politically-driven division. Please make the right choice and stand beside your colleague.

Name: Samantha Zimmer

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City.

Comment:

I am writing to emphatically ask every member of the City Council to reject any and all complaints against Council President Laura Armstrong with regard to the Facebook posts about COVID-19 and CDC guidelines at local businesses. The allegations against her are absurd. The attempt to force her out of office is extreme and disgraceful. Please dismiss this issue at once so the Council and the community can focus on issues of substance.

Name: Cynthia Hilton

Address

Rapid City

South Dakota

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Facebook Page :caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong.

I do not believe Laura has done anything wrong and has worked hard for the City of Rapid City.

In helping create a Facebook page... Laura has simply allowed interested people to find places of business where they can shop and dine safely. She has in no way blacklisted any businesses.

I would come in person to the council meetings to show my support of Laura but I often see too many attendees not wearing masks and don't feel it is safe.

Please stop trying to remove Laura and allow her to get back to work for our city

Thank you.

Name: Tim Wells

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Armstrong

Comment:

She is the most disrespectful member on the city council. Get rid of her. She is so left winged thinking. She needs to be taken off social media if she is in a city office. Don't want to be on her Naughty List because my business doesn't wear masks.

Name: Sam Speed

Address:

Summerset, Sd 57718

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

She literally is asking people to say "nice" comments about her. She should not be on the council. She does not represent the people in this town. To call people names because they don't think the way she thinks is wrong and childish.

Name: Donna Fisher

Address:

Deadwood, SD 57732 (rural Pennington County)

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I'm 80 and I live outside the city limits but worship, shop, volunteer, and receive medical and other professional care here. If I don't like the community climate, government, safety and quality of life, I can move.

Laura Armstrong is a reason to stay here! She embodies informed decisions plus a respectful stance to those persons who differ with her. That she has been attacked with such ugly words and bullying threats is not a negative. It's a positive!

Laura's supporters follow CDC public health guidelines. As responsible people, they won't turn up maskless to rant because they care about their own safety and about the safety of others.

Ms Armstrong's encouragement for the Facebook page is a positive! The page helps us know how to keep themselves safe. People who find the page offensive to business shouldn't use it. It's that simple. There is no blacklisting, just "positive" listing.

Don't let the bullies divide you.

Name: Linda, David and Christie Sandvik

Address:

Rapid City,SD 57702

ph 605-431-3854

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: FB page Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

We support the Caring Businesses in Rapid City FB page. Laurie Armstrong is a hero and should be applauded for her sensible and helpful approach. The FB page is upbeat and positive recognizing businesses successfully navigating these difficult times. She helped start the page in response to requests from her constituents, keeping people safe and Rapid City businesses going. It is not, as some have insinuated, meant to call out businesses that do not require masks

My healthy young nephew, who felt masks were unnecessary, had a mild case of COVID in Nov. Last week he was hospitalized with a serious pulmonary embolism, a late complication of this virus. He could have died. This virus is NOT BENIGN. Masks save both lives and the economy by allowing businesses to open safely.

We commend the courage and integrity of Laura Armstrong in helping to keep our community safe.

David Sandvik MD Linda Sandvik RN Christie Sandvik

Name: Rick Bell

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am a resident of Ward 5 and Laura Armstrong is our Council representative as well as the Council President. She is the most competent and compassionate person we've ever had in this position. I am disgusted not only with the way this whole mask issue has gone beyond any reasonable bounds, but also with the people who are fomenting this baseless uproar. In a democracy everyone needs to be heard and Ms. Armstrong has done this by diligently listening to all sides and developing reasonable compromises, etc. She's done nothing to warrant the kinds of actions her opponent are suggesting. I ask the Council to please end this charade quickly and fairly by not censuring her or otherwise trying to remove her from office. Everyone needs to get back to work to address the real issues in our community. Thank-You.

Name: Linda Lea Viken

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I disagree with the attacks on Council Chair, Laura Armstrong. She simply listed businesses that follow CDC recommendations. She made no reference to those who don't, and allegations to the contrary are not truthful.

Many people are looking for the businesses that follow the CDC recommendations, so she did a public service by listing them. While we all have freedom of speech, we do not have the right to falsely attack a person because we do not agree with them, or don't like them. And threatening someone simply because they do not agree with you, or support you, is violating their rights. Let's remember, as the saying goes, we can disagree without being disagreeable. And South Dakotans used to be good at that....

Name: Karissa Loewen

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

Council President Laura Armstrong is showing strong leadership by helping businesses share information about their COVID19 safety procedures in an accessible place. This is a support to the small business community by allowing more people to feel comfortable patronizing local business instead of doing business online. It empowers the community as a whole by offering people more choice about what health risks they take on a daily basis. As is Laura Armstrong's way, this has been done in supportive and constructive way.

During the pandemic I chose to express my opinions through online comments out of respect for others. I know many people who are very supportive of Laura Armstrong's leadership on public health who do not feel it is safe nor responsible to attend Council meetings in person. Having so many unmasked people crowded in the Council Chambers absolutely skews the type of public comment you are receiving.

Name: Nina Hollenbeck

Address:

Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong censure

Comment:

As a business owner I appreciate Ms Armstrong's support as I try to ensure the health of my employees and customers. As a 72 year old cancer survivor I appreciate her guidance as I choose where to safely shop. She's following CDC Guidelines. Why is there even a question?

Name: Janice Knutsen

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I am not at the meeting to comment because I don't go anywhere these days due to Covid, especially without a mask.

I have heard about the opposition to Laura Armstrong's involvement with the Facebook page. I have a special-needs son with underlying medical issues and find this page very helpful to know where he and I can go, safely

Because some one is involved in a Facebook page that can help people, doesn't seem to be a reason for her to be removed from a leadership or council position. I hope the council will ignore this bullying effort by those who don't agree with her. Thank you for reading this.

Name: Linda Holcomb

Address:

Rapid City,SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page:Caring business

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong and her role on the City Council. I am very appreciative of the Facebook page, Caring Businesses. It is a positive resource which helps me choose where it is safe to do business. Those of us who choose health and safety should not be penalized or silenced.

Name: Christy Heacock

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong and the excellent job she has done on the City Council. She cares about our community and feels masks help make people safer. Providing information regarding businesses that will be honoring safety protocol - wearing masks and social distancing - is helpful both to people who appreciate masks and to those who don't. I know that some anti-maskers enter businesses that require masks and berate and insult those following CDC safety protocols. Laura is respectful of those who don't believe masks and social distancing are beneficial ways to keep our community safe. A small group of angry people are trying to make a health issue a political issue and have chosen Laura as their scapegoat. The Facebook page doesn't blacklist anyone; it simply lets people know what to expect when they enter a business.

Name: Anita Paige

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page: Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong in her effort to help the residents of Rapid City learn what businesses are following CDC guidelines in asking employees and customers/clients to wear face masks during this time of pandemic. It is important to protect ourselves and those around us to do everything we can to avoid spreading this deadly disease and those simple steps are some of the ways we can do it. This is not a casual thing and she's done something that that helps her constituents - and the rest of us as well - learn where it's safe to shop and dine in public.

Name: Gabrielle Seeley

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Do not censure Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Honored City Council Members,

Laura Armstrong should not be censured. She has supported mask efforts in our city, and for that, well-educated citizens of all ages, especially elders, thank her. Wearing a mask shows regard for the health of others. Young people need strong examples of adults who respect the safety and health of fellow citizens. Please do not censure Laura Armstrong.

Respectfully, Mrs. Seeley

Name: Christian D. Seeley

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong,

Comment:

I am commenting here to support Laura Armstrong. She is one of the few that has listened to the business owners here in Rapid City (myself included) and supported a mask mandate. She is a voice of reason. She needs to stay in a leadership role on the City Council. I will be HIGHLY disappointed in the council and question the leadership in Rapid City if she is removed from her position and/or the council.

Name: Suzan Nolan

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing to express my support for Council woman Laura Armstrong. I think she has shown courage and leadership on her stance regarding mask wearing. She has been a strong and vital leader and I support her. To think someone would be removed from the Council for trying to protect citizens is just absurd. She has so much to offer and she should stay.