

Name: Keith Huffman

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Discussion related to Laura Armstrong (February 1, 2021)

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong on City Council. She is a phenomenal leader with impeccable and admirable ethics. She continues to create an atmosphere where the community's wellbeing and health are the epitome of her decisions. I humbly ask that she continue her critical progress within the city by dismissing these allegations. She is an influential and prominent leader that we as a community need. Thank you

Name: David Super

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Once again I am writing to express my support for Council Member Laura Armstrong. The relentless criticism of her actions is petty and pointless. Hiding behind a cloak of "liberty" and "individual responsibility" does not work when our community and the rest of the world are fighting a pandemic. I urge members of the Council and citizens of Rapid City to support Ms. Armstrong and countless others who value science above lost cause emotion.

Respectfully,

David Super

Name: Charles Michael Ray

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I'm writing in support of Laura Armstrong's leadership as President of the City Council.

Councilwoman Armstrong has acted with total integrity in the interest of protecting the public good in this global pandemic.

My family is immunocompromised, and I believe the leadership of those like Councilwoman Armstrong has helped us make it this far into the pandemic without contracting COVID-19.

As a small business owner in the Black Hills. I believe in transparency in the marketplace – members of the public have a right to know and support the businesses that are following recommended guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Charles Michael Ray

Name: Justin Speck

Address:

Rapid City, SD. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Dear City Council:

This letter is to inform you of my full support of Council Member Armstrong's ability to serve with equity, inclusiveness, thoughtfulness and integrity.

Ms Armstrong has undergone recent allegations of unfair practices after a social media page revealed which local businesses are complying with CDC guidelines due to the pandemic. This information is reliable and helpful to members of our community who are at greater risk for infection and need to continue with their lives in the safest way possible.

I do not support a censure, a removal from office, or dismissal from the board.

I call upon our city council to put this pettiness aside and allow Ms Armstrong to continue working diligently with the city council on the important issues our community is facing.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for moving forward with positivity and integrity.

Respectfully,

Justin Speck

Name: George Rokusek

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support Councilwomen Laura Armstrong. She has been a leader in our community trying to stem the tide of the deadly Coronavirus. She has advocated for the community to wear masks, recommended by the CDC, to protect all of us, especially the most vulnerable. This should not be a political issue.

Name: Pam Rokusek

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I strongly support council member and President Laura Armstrong remaining on the council. I appreciate her efforts to promote mask wearing, as recommend by the CDC, to help in the prevention of COVID-19 spread in our community. As a caregiver of an elderly parent, I cannot thank Laura enough for striving to make the health of our community a priority. This is a health, not political issue. Laura Armstrong should continue her tremendous service on behalf of the citizens of Rapid City on the council. Thank you, Laura.

Name: Oliver L Hasse

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support the president of our city council. Our council is made up of a broad spectrum of our community. There opinions and decisions do and will create some friction for those who have different options, and this is good.

I do not believe President Armstrong's actions are against the councils code of conduct. Her actions were only there to support the community and help inform citizens of businesses following CDC guidance.

Name: Deborah Gangloff

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Facebook Page, Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong. She helped to provide a service to the public in identifying businesses that require masks. We are in the middle of a global pandemic, though so many in SD do not seem to understand the severity of this virus or simple measures that we may take to protect ourselves. For that reason those of us who believe in masks as one tool we have to protect ourselves appreciate information that helps us to stay healthy. No business is censored by this action, and no one is prohibited from patronizing any business. It is just information. Why information scares some people is interesting, isn't it? It is unfair to demonize Laura in this way. She is doing her job as an elected official to work for the people. I am her constituent, in her district, and I am grateful for the work she does on our behalf.



Name: Triscell Knuppe

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

This is pretty simple, it's about science. Science tells us if we want to get back to "normal" we need to wear a mask. Simply to prevent the spread of the virus. Is it fun? No. This is not an issue about fun or comfort. It's about science. A list of businesses following CDC guidelines, which are backed by science, is helpful information for those following the science. Let's put our energy & time into supporting our community getting back to our healthier, kinder selves.

Name: Tyler valandra

Address: sturgis

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Not cool South Dakota!!!! I'm embarrassed and sickened by the way leadership is treating this mask problem, there is no problem, tell Everybody to wear your masks, period!!! If people of low iQ wanna not wear them, stay home!!! We are here to protect all, not listen to the whiners who do not care about others!!!this problem will not go away until leadership addresses this correctly, masks in all business, all!!!!?

Name: Kat Crown

Address: rapid city

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is an excellent, trustworthy leader who cares for the citizens and actually represents the interests of the people, just like all city council members are supposed to do!

Name: Seth Thomas

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong and applaud her efforts to keep Rapid City safe during the COVID pandemic. Her Facebook postings have helped consumers make informed choices regarding their safety. Representative Phil Jensen, who purports to champion free markets, should understand that the freest market is the one that incorporates and offers the most information to consumers. Ms. Armstrong's social media posts have offered this benefit to our community.

Protecting our health is both our duty and our right; Ms. Armstrong's own rights are guaranteed by the First Amendment. I question the motives of anyone who challenges either.

Name: Shirley Garnette

Address: Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong, Council President

Comment:

Laura Armstrong strongly believes that masks are a personal protective item that should be worn by all citizens who are out in public places where they may become infected with the lethal coronavirus, or they may be carrying the virus and will infect others. There are many others who also believe in this guidance from the CDC as is evident by the numbers of local people of all ages who are voluntarily wearing masks in our city. We all need to continue to try to keep ourselves free of COVID19 and the many new strains now appearing in our country and state that continue to escalate the death toll. According to John Hopkins University data, the pandemic we are in has killed more than 408,000 Americans in less than 337 days. Comparatively 405,399 American soldiers died fighting in World War II over a period of 1,347 days.

Ms. Armstrong is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly for others and she should be retained.

Name: Jamie Al-Haj

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Code of Conduct Complaint of Alderwoman Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong as a Rapid City Alderwoman and Council President.

She is a dedicated and hardworking leader who has demonstrated genuine care and compassion for her community and its citizens. The disgruntled few that have voiced their opinion, do not speak for the majority of Rapid City residents. Alderwoman Armstrong's statements and actions have been based on scientific facts, CDC recommendations, common sense and concern for the health and safety of every member of our community.

I believe Alderwoman Laura Armstrong is an asset to the Rapid City City Council and to Rapid City. There should be no question as to her character, integrity, professionalism, or intentions. Alderwoman Armstrong exemplifies the characteristics of true leadership and should not be reprimanded, but should be praised for her commitment to making Rapid City a safer place during these unprecedented times!

Name: Whitnee Pearce

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Tonight I write a letter in full support of Mrs. Laura Armstrong. She is and has always been a strong leader filled with compassion, critical thinking skills, and logic. Helping her fellow community members be able to identify businesses where COVID-19 safety protocols were in place is just a small piece of the many wonderful things she has done for our community. While some would like to vilify her and her actions, who knows how many lives were saved by someone knowing where they could safely shop.

Please keep Mrs. Armstrong on the council and as the President. She is a leader that Rapid City needs and bullying will not change that.

Name: Mary Weber Swanson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Council President

Comment:

It is disappointing that a vocal segment of our community has become personally threatening to Council President, Laura Armstrong. I too, shared the Caring Business page. It was not political nor intended to deride other business. As a resident with a compromised immune system, it is a useful resource. I fail to understand how arming a diverse community with information is anything but responsible. Laura Armstrong is an honorable and capable leader who researches and listens. She promotes a safe and vibrant community while regarding the dignity of all residents. We are lucky she chooses to share her boundless energy and problem solving skills with us. I respectfully ask you to uphold the standards of our Common Council and fully support Laura Armstrong.



Name: Natalie Stites Means

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Complaints against Alderwoman Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Does this Council and Mayor plan on going after a woman leader every year now? If Ms Armstrong's scientific, reasonable and compassionate approach had prevailed at the city, county and business level, maybe the toll of this pandemic would not be as horrifying as it is. Let's get to using our time wisely! Wash your hands. Mask up. Social distance. Stop the spread. Stop the variants. Tend to the long haulers in our city now. Extend condolences to the families in mourning. COVID-19 deniers need leaders not enablers. Thank you to Laura for doing her duty and taking the heat for taking public health measures including on social that are necessary for life and health right now. Our COVID-19 community relief project has heeded the call for masks by distributing over 15,000 to Rapid City since June 2020. What are you all doing to address that 1 out of 500 South Dakotans are dead due to COVID-19? Hearing complaints against Laura doesn't count.

Name: Charlotte Petrick

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong & her efforts to make Rapid City more safe.

She has endured outrageous personal attacks with grace & decorum. Laura is the type of council member we need- proactive, honest, with ethics and integrity.

Name: Heather Sporrer

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I greatly appreciate Ms. Armstrong's wonderful leadership. She is an advocate for our city and its citizens. It deeply saddens me the Council must take up this issue.

I appreciate the Caring Businesses Facebook site as a forum for what businesses are requiring/enforcing masks as I have several high risk family members. The vast majority of posts/comments I observed were respectful and factual. Although I am aware of other sites having a naughty list, I have not observed any such list on the Caring Businesses site.

Please make sure you are basing your information on facts and not hearsay.

Additionally, this seems to be a very slippery slope we as a city are approaching. What situation is going to call on one's character next? What yard sign is in a council members yard? Who a council member does business with? Who a council member talks to at church? What group a council member choses to be a guest speaker at?

Thank you.

Name: Londa Richter

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: STAFF DIRECTION Further action, or direction, regarding a Code of Conduct complaint against Alderwoman Laura Armstrong.

Comment:

I want to voice my support for Laura Armstrong. I greatly appreciated Laura's effort early on during this pandemic to follow CDC guidelines concerning wearing masks to curb the spread of COVID-19 and social distancing. The Facebook group Caring Businesses of Rapid City has been a wonderful resource for me to be able to support local businesses who are like minded in the belief that wearing a mask is a sign of respect to others. Laura is committed to doing what is best for the residents of Rapid City as well as the outlying communities that Rapid City businesses support. She is willing to listen to science and understands the consequences of personal responsibility. The attacks against Laura are troubling and completely unfounded. Laura is a leader in our community who should be supported, not criticized for the hard work she does day in and day out.

Name: Sam Mortimer

Address:

Rapid City. SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong for her work and her position and leadership regarding the advocacy for a mask mandate. As a physician, I believe Laura follows the science and the data, which should be the advised position for the City during this pandemic and public health crisis. Please dismiss all allegations against her in hopes the City can get back to the important work of governing our community.

Respectfully,

Sam L. Mortimer M.D. FAAP

Name: Fahbia Ahmed

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Councilwoman Armstrong has shown great character in the face of baseless claims. Creating a page where I can safely shop has been a godsend. I never took it to be that I should boycott the other business. I hope the people and the council will not fall to this witch-hunt.

Name: Karen Mortimer

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong as a dedicated and valued a council member and leader. She leads with intelligence, experience, integrity and with the sincere concern for the welfare of all citizens of our community. My observation is that Laura is a dedicated and highly respected elected official representing our community with an exceptional work ethic. I have had the honor to work with Laura for several years in the community with MOA and she has been a remarkable leader in multiple ways.

There is nothing historical that indicates any misconduct or inappropriate actions by Laura. She has been attempting to use science based facts and follows research. I ask that all allegations be dismissed and allow the Common Council to continue the important work of the City.

Karen Mortimer

Director - Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors (MOA)

Name: Brittany Neiles

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I'm submitting my comment in support of Councilwoman Armstrong. This community and this state has decided that it would take a 'choose your own adventure' approach to covid. Now, a small but vocal group decided to complain when some citizens decided it was best for us to only go to places with a certain level of precautions in place. It shouldn't really matter why we choose not to shop or eat at places without precautions—as I said, the community decided that everyone should choose what's best for them. There's no ill will behind this group. Quite the opposite. It's about supporting each other in our personal decisions. I urge you to support Councilwoman Armstrong and not let a small, vocal minority divide our community more.



Name: Marvin Buehner MD

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Last Fall Laura Armstrong asked me what the local medical community thought about COVID public health policy. Polling my colleagues led to a resolution by the Monument medical staff endorsing a mask mandate in RC. I testified twice before the mayor and Council about COVID management and the only stalwart advocate for policy based on expert science was Laura Armstrong. When they failed, she and others promoted free markets and free speech by informing consumers about responsible businesses adhering to safety guidelines. Now a few who believe the right to bare face trumps public safety, have attacked Councilmember Armstrong. My 90 year old parents are battling COVID for their lives in Mitchell. If officials at all levels of government had the courage and perseverance of Laura Armstrong, they would be safe at home. I don't know her personally, but she deserves a medal.

Name: Kehala Two Bulls

Address:

Rapid city sd

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is looking out for the safety of the community. Informing people is proactive. I want to support local businesses but I don't feel comfortable shopping/going places that don't require masks. I have lost MANY family members to Covid 19. Ignoring the risk of community spread is reckless and Ms Armstrong should be applauded for her efforts.

Name: Hillary Presecan

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: I support Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has been fighting for our health & safety on the city council. She serves out of a passion for our community and we need more people like her fighting for us. When our federal, state, and city governments failed to act with common sense in response to Covid-19, she and others followed up with free-market actions. Now she's being vilified and is at risk of punitive action.

Name: Gwen Fenhaus

Address:

Rapid City South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I would like to state that I fully support Laura Armstrong in her fight for a mask mandate and all Rapid City Council that support this agenda. The people that are there fighting this do NOT represent most Rapid City residents they are just the loudest. Well done council women Armstrong.

Name: Gladys Storm

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Facebook Page : Caring Businesses in Rapid City

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong. She has been a dedicated, hardworking, and fair member of the City Council. Laura truly cares about Rapid City and the citizens.

This list was made to help older people like us who need to know what businesses we can safely shop in.

Please dismiss these allegations

Name: Kimberly Tilsen-Brave Heart

Address: Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura is the type of leader we all need. She is committed to creating an inclusive equitable community for all. It is absurd that these baseless claims are even being brought forward to the council. We need leaders that are compassionate for our people, Laura is just that.

Name: Rachel Caesar

Address:

Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Executive Session

Comment:

Ms. Armstrong serving on the City Council is what gives me hope for the future. I hear about economic development groups wanting to bring professionals to the area, and I also hear people talk about being a local as if that should carry some weight. Well I'm a professional from a family who has lived in the Black Hills for over a century, and the actions taken against Ms. Armstrong make me want to take my family to another community where decisions are made based on logic instead of petty political ideologies. This isn't a "take my ball and go home" sort of decision. I believe my family would be safer elsewhere.

South Dakota is already becoming the laughing stock of the nation, please don't make it worse. Help to restore community pride by making a common sense decision about Ms. Armstrong.

Name: Sarah Shewbrooks

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has done what other members of this city and city council were too afraid to do by taking a definitive stance supported by science on our community response to COVID-19. While other council members and city leaders allowed politics and misinformation to lead them in their actions, Laura did what needed to be done for the safety of our community. As a scientist and public health worker I fully support Laura and I'm embarrassed by our community members who have taken action against her. I support science, so I support Laura Armstrong.



Name: Colleen Ragan

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: L. Armstrong complaints

Comment:

I rarely comment on City Council but I must speak out in favor of Laura Armstrong and her support of masking while in public spaces. I've known Ms. Armstrong for several years and appreciate her commitment to studying issues, her honesty and "cut to the chase" delivery. She speaks passionately which some may think is condescending, but she loves our city, is concerned with the health of all people and respects the right to free speech. The FB page praising businesses requiring masks was only support and appreciation, not cyber-bullying. It would be like saying every person who attended the rally on 1/6 favored storming the capital and rioting. Please Rapid City, it is time to work together, and Armstrong continues to prove her integrity and commitment to our community by speaking up for a large number of people who have shared our opinions and issues with her. Thank you for your most serious consideration in this matter.

Name: Peggy J Vidal

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong and know that her involvement in providing a list of businesses that support mask mandates was done in good faith and there was no malice. She is good for Rapid City and a very valuable and credible council member who uses empathy every day.

Name: Meghan Knowles

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. The allegations that she started a “naughty list” are patently false. I have been a member of this group since its inception. Negative posts are not allowed and negative comments are deleted immediately. The purpose is to allow citizens to find a way to help protect their vulnerable loved ones. That is the *\*very\** thing that city council members should be doing! Since the city council has abdicated their public health responsibilities during this pandemic, we citizens are left to our own devices to try and find ways to help our vulnerable loved ones. This Facebook page is one tool. Two city council members attended a citizens for liberty meeting to strategize on how to defeat a mask mandate. Will they be censured and removed for their own “extracurricular activities”?

Name: Cher Daniel

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Re. Council Woman L. Armstrong

Comment:

It is apparent that a small vocal minority of citizens who continually attend city and school board meetings have one sole purpose in mind. To use these meetings as their own political pulpits from which they feel they have every right to defame others, and share their own opinions using tirades and their own one sided lens. They do not go to these meetings to see the whole picture or be helpful to our community. They use the armor of "free speech", but when an individual or group of any kind uses this same right but it maybe puts them in a bad light they immediately take offense. Their tactics are nothing more than a modern day witch hunt. While the council should investigate and question concerns that come from the community, I would hope as a collective group of leaders you look at facts and information with an objective lens as you have volunteered and been elected to do

Name: Amy Burke

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong Support

Comment:

Please do not censure or remove Laura Armstrong from the City Council. Her passion and drive to improve Rapid City is a reason why I support her completely. I didn't even vote for city issues before Laura ran for the City Council. She showed my family and me how the local government affects our every day life. I appreciate her drive to understand all sides of an issue before making her decision. Laura represents my district and I would appreciate her to continue on the Council.

Name: Maggie Engler

Address:

Rapid City SD 577702-3228

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

The complaints against Councilwoman Laura Armstrong are nothing but that - loud angry complaints. We are all going to hold our own opinions. The folks speaking against her have a right to their opinion. However, there has nothing this Councilwoman has done that deserves censure or removal from the City Council. She has broken no law. She has not threatened anyone. She has not done the members of the city or the Council a disservice. She has simply stated HER opinion about what is the best course of action for our community.

I stand with Laura Armstrong.

Name: Yoko Sugawara

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong Discussion

Comment:

Caring Businesses of Rapid City is an excellent resource for venerable populations to learn where they can shop safely during the pandemic. I do not believe it is a discrimination against shops who chose not to adhere to the CDC COVID guidelines. I support Laura Armstrong and her efforts.

Name: Trish Anderson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Pro Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong won her first term election in Ward 5 with 68% of the votes. She is so popular in her ward that she ran un-opposed for her second term. If the Citizens for Liberty do not care for her stance, they should find and support a Ward 5 candidate to run against Ms. Armstrong. That is democracy...that is how our country has operated for over 200 some years. The slur campaign and back room innuendo to try and force Ms. Armstrong to step down shows that her opponents are lazy and unable to muster the votes or support to defeat Ms. Armstrong the legal way.



Name: Sandra Fire Lightning

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I oppose the waste of our tax dollars on this meeting.

“Cancel culture” hecklers now seek to “cancel” Councilwoman Armstrong.

The City position is it’s “personal choice” and the “free market” to not wear a mask. Then it is equally “choice” to wear a mask.

Our businesses were given the “choice” whether or not to require masks - and every citizen in Rapid the “choice” to go there or not. Sharing information on each business’ “choice” so individuals can make their “choice” is literally how the “free market” works.

It’s the ultimate hypocrisy to claim “choice” and “free market” for no masks then cry foul when others use “choice” and “free market” for use of masks. You cannot have it both ways.

Councilwoman Armstrong was duly elected by her constituents, and this Heckler’s Veto is a waste of city resources.

Name: Patrick O'Leary

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57705

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong delivers stable and strong leadership. Her commitment to the residents of Rapid City is apparent in her willingness to listen to science, act upon facts, and smile in the midst of heated challenges. Laura makes a significant contribution to our community in these stressful times, as a health professional and a representative for our community

Wearing a mask, following CDC recommendations is consideration for fellow human beings and is not a political statement or issue. Anyone's refusal to, or campaigning against, wearing a mask, cannot and should not call themselves a Christian. If they choose to identify as one they must precede "Christian" with the word "convenient".

I hope all will act in the best interest of our community and make a choice on the side of what is best for their neighbors, our children, senior citizens and support the strong leadership of Laura Armstrong.

Name: Tye Kuyper

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong executive session

Comment:

I am writing this in support of Laura Armstrong. Laura's involvement in the Caring Businesses group should not be considered a code of conduct violation. The Facebook group has been a great service to our community for those seeking this information. The group is a helpful resource, not a place for business shaming or poor experiences. There is no "naughty list".

The Code of Conduct says officials are to demonstrate the highest standards of conduct, personal integrity, & honesty. I believe Laura exemplifies these characteristics. She might have strong opinions, but she would never do anything to harm the people of RC.

Ask yourself this. Does she have integrity, does she take her role on City Council seriously & does she make decisions with our community's best interests in mind. If you truly reflect on that, & are mindful of your own responsibility to the code of conduct, I hope you will vote for no punishable action.

Name: Karen Pearson

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am very appreciative of Ms. Armstrong advocating for supporting best practice public health actions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. I appreciated her Facebook posting identifying businesses that support mask-wearing, making it easier to shop locally. I believe she has been professional and appropriate in her words and actions. Recently, it seems if a person believes something different than a small vocal group of people in our city believe, the person is targeted in a very destructive manner. If we believe in freedom of choice, Ms. Armstrong deserves to be respected for her choice to provide information to people like me, who look to remain safe and support businesses that have chosen to require masks. I have seen nothing negative from her in terms of the businesses that choose not to require masks. I encourage you, with Ms. Armstrong in her position, to move forward taking care of the business of our community.

Name: Susan W. Callahan

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Support of Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am commenting to voice my total support for Laura Armstrong!! I feel very strongly that everyone should be wearing masks due to Covid-19. I appreciate knowing the names of local businesses which do not require masks so that I don't waste my time by giving them any of my business. If I come across any such businesses, I publish a public post on my personal Facebook page so that others know of these businesses.

I thank Laura for her tenacity and willingness to help us all navigate this difficult landscape!!

Name: John Halverson

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has lately been under attack from various members of the Common Council that seem to be willfully ignorant of established scientific evidence regarding this current pandemic and seem to be bent on having their false ideology forced on this community. I stand behind Ms. Armstrong (in spite of our longstanding political differences) and with the guidelines of the CDC. This is not a political issue where woefully uninformed parties can replace established science with their politically driven drive to "virtue signal" their allegiance to one party or another. This is about the very lives of their fellow citizens. Mask up, Rapid City!

Name: Allison Ireland

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I have recently become a resident in Laura's district. I have not been able to attend any of the city council meetings for several reasons, mainly because I'm trying to social distance. I feel that Laura is using facts as well as true compassion for others in her request for masks and social distancing. I honestly feel she has the best interest of our city in mind. I have known Laura for 20 years, I have worked with her and have always admired her ethics. She is passionate about her beliefs and she is using facts to back these beliefs up. She isn't out to run businesses into the ground- what would be her motive for THAT? She isn't out to take away anyone's freedoms. She is simply looking to keep the city safe and well. I trust she has my best interest in mind. I am proud to say I support her, I am even more proud to say I live in her district. I am grateful for her and her efforts.

Name: Dawn M Arkinson-Red Cloud

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City Council discussion related to Laura Armstrong, February 1, 2021

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong on City Council as she is a phenomenal leader with impeccable and admirable ethics! She continues to create an atmosphere where the community's wellbeing and health are the epitome of her decisions. I am asking that she continue her critical progress within the city by dismissing these allegations. She is an influential and prominent leader that we need! Thank you.



Name: Bradley Bailey

Address:

Rapid City, SD. 57702

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

The Citizens for Liberty appear to be lodging a complaint against one of our finest City Council members, Laura Armstrong. This small group of people don't appear to understand we all have liberties, and Laura is standing up for the liberties of other citizens. This group seems to be bullies, as well.

Laura Armstrong has been a rock during this pandemic, trying her best to keep the citizens of Rapid City safe. We each have our individual liberties, not just the Citizens for Liberty. Laura's actions have helped us, who take this pandemic seriously, stay safe by recognizing which businesses are taking steps to keep their customers safe. I applaud her actions. Keep Laura on the City Council and her voice heard for us!

Name: Mély Rahn

Address:

Rapid City, SD. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

This comment is to support Laura Armstrong. I appreciate deeply her attempts to encourage common sense observation of mask wearing to help curb the spread of COVID-19. As a resident of Westhills Village, senior retirement community, I am very aware that the CDC guidelines need to be observed by all citizens for them to be effective.

The brouhaha about a list of businesses favorable to helping people who cannot enter a business place is not worth the fuss. If apartment residents at Westhills Village choose to enter business places, we must quarantine ourselves for 14 days after. This rule is intended to protect us all from COVID-19. So far, it has worked quite well. Thus, a list of places which offers curbside service is a lifesaver for us.

Please do not censure Laura Armstrong for exercising her freedom of speech to help us.

Name: Kevin Carroll

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

It is my understanding that the Citizens for Liberty (CFL) have alleged that Laura Armstrong's support for both wearing masks, and for the business that require them, is overstepping her position of authority and infringing on their freedom. Their claim is outrageous, and motivated by politics.

Laura's voice on City Council speaks for me and citizens like me who look to our leaders to protect our freedom to move about the city without risking injury or potential death from a virus, just as smoking laws protect us from second hand smoke and traffic laws protect us from wreck less drivers. We seek a voice in our city government that will protect our rights, and Laura Armstrong is our brave and compassionate voice.

Do the right thing and end this harassment. Tell the Citizens of Liberty that our democracy doesn't silence the voices with whom we disagree, but rather creates a dialogue with them.

Name: Rebecca Kidder

Address: 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Executive session item character and fitness of Laura armstrong

Comment:

I wrote as a business owner in Rapid City regarding the Council's consideration of action on Laura Armstrong. Complaints based on rumors and dislike of the stance in favor of mask mandates are unwarranted. I watched both Council sessions. Ms Armstrong spoke the truth in a professional way in the face of incivility, threats, and disrespect by several community members and one council member. Her comments were not unfactual or unprofessional. The rumor of a list of businesses is just that: a rumor. Dismissal based on the facts is warranted. When elected leaders can no longer speak the truth our democracy is doomed. I have spoken before city council and had a council member accuse me personally of improper motive and improper action for speaking. I did not file a complaint. Democracy requires that we let our elected leaders speak. Council members should be held to the same standard.

Name: Arlene Lichtenecker

Address: - Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

CARING, ENERGETIC, PASSIONATE, DETERMINED. These are the type of words that I use to describe Laura Armstrong. I wish there were more persons that had her vision. There is nothing wrong in caring and wanting to accomplish good things that have positive effects for everyone.

Name: Sheila M. Cain

Address: Rapid City, SD 57709

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Council President Armstrong

Comment:

I would like to thank Council President Armstrong for standing up for my protection and health. Covid 19 does not care if you disagree with the Council President. We all should be thanking people who care about all of us. These distractions do not help us. Instead of complaining, ask how you can help us all move forward.

Name: Julie Santella

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Dear Rapid City Common Council,

I have heard about efforts to reprimand and/or remove Councilmember Laura Armstrong regarding her involvement in promoting business which choose to prioritize the health and wellbeing of their employees and customers by implementing CDC recommendations regarding COVID-19. I would like to strongly urge members of the Common Council against giving these misguided, selfish impulses any credence. Ms. Armstrong ought to be applauded for taking the health of our community seriously. I personally feel uncomfortable entering establishments where masks are not required, and I am grateful for efforts to hold up business that are acting responsibly in the midst of a global pandemic. Please reject any efforts by Citizens for Liberty or any affiliated individuals as what they are: selfish irresponsibility.

Sincerely,

Julie Santella

Ward 2

Name: Dawn Thomson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong - Support

Comment:

Heckler's Veto. I oppose the waste of our tax dollars on this meeting. "Cancel culture" hecklers now seek to "cancel" Councilwoman Armstrong.

The City position is it's "personal choice" and the "free market" to not wear a mask. Then it is equally "choice" to wear a mask. Our businesses were given the "choice" whether or not to require masks - and every citizen in Rapid the "choice" to go there or not. Sharing information on each business' "choice" so individuals can make their "choice" is literally how the "free market" works.

It's the ultimate hypocrisy to claim "choice" and "free market" for no masks then cry foul when others use "choice" and "free market" for use of masks. You cannot have it both ways.

Many asked Councilwoman Armstrong to show leadership, so she did. Councilwoman Armstrong was duly elected by her constituents, and this Heckler's Veto is a waste of city resources.



Name: Mary Christine (Chris) Coleman

Address: Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong discussion

Comment:

I have to write again expressing my dismay at the false and hurtful allegations being spread about our Council President Laura Armstrong. This group has turned a medical emergency into a political issue. Please quickly move to applaud her work and dismiss any possibility of censure or removal. I would love to be in attendance but do not feel safe surrounded by a gang of super spreaders without masks.

Name: Patty Dail

Address:

Rapid City, Sd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

It is disheartening to hear that once again, a small but vocal group in our community, has the ear and apparently is able to manipulate our City Council. Citizens of Liberty is nothing but a group of bullies who personally attack a public figure who does not agree with their views, usually people who are realistic and logical— things that members of this is not. Shame on the City Council for even considering any action against Laura Armstrong. I urge you to remove this item from the agenda!

Name: Tracy Sazue

Address: 2710 Red Cloud St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has provided consistently strong leadership. Her commitment to ALL citizens of Rapid City is evident in her willingness to listen to science, act upon facts, and bring forth a smile of kindness in the midst of heated challenges. Laura makes a significant contribution to our community as a health professional and as a representative for our community. The attacks launched against her are appalling. Wearing a mask, following CDC recommendations to keep our communities safe is not a political statement, although some disruptive individuals would lead you to believe it is. I have witnessed Laura's willingness to listen, learn and lead. I hope all will act in the best interest of our community and make a choice on the side of what is best for our citizens and support the strong leadership of Laura Armstrong.

Thank you.

Name: Michelle O'Toole

Address:

Rapid City,SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura

Comment:

This has got to stop.

I appreciate anyone who will take a stand and advocate following CDC guidelines.

NOT following them by NOT wearing masks has not worked very well.

Having the highest amount of COVID in the entire nation at one point in time.

Continuing to act like we are NOT in a pandemic!

Continuing to have super spreader events (stock show etc).

Wearing a mask is the very least we can do for one another.

We need more people like Laura on the council.

Stop this witch hunt!

Name: Caitlin Monahan

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

What citizens need are servant leaders who listen to us, care, and set good examples. Laura Armstrong represents all citizens of Rapid City. Facts are not political and should not be up for debate. Listening to experts and following guidelines (wearing masks) is how we can keep each other safer. Please stop wasting time on this nonissue and strive to be the servant leaders we need. Laura Armstrong exemplifies these qualities. The people of Rapid City are lucky to have her. Thank you.

#IstandwithLauraArmstrong

Name: Laura Lytle

Address:

Rapid City Sd 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Armstrong

Comment:

I am submitting in support of Laura Armstrong. She is respectful, caring, and decent. and walks in this world with a big heart and tremendous wisdom. I am grateful to have her on the council. I respectfully ask the council to honor differing opinions. This is essential to a well rounded community. Thank you-

Name: barb storbeck

Address:

rapid city sad 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Laurie Armstrong

Comment:

She is a wonderful representative for Rapid City. She should not be bullied by some blowhards.

Name: Lori Colbeck

Address:

Black Hawk, SD 57718

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Executive Session/Alderwoman Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I would like to file a comment in support of Ms. Armstrong. I have known Laura long before she became involved in local government but her heart has always been the same, one that helps others. Her convictions led her to the city council and for that, I'm grateful and proud.

I do not believe her intentions were malicious or that her comments were on par with cyberbullying. Laura's group was meant to be a resource for vulnerable citizens to make decisions about which business would accommodate them, not target businesses that wouldn't accommodate. Cyberbullying is not what I'd call frustration to ask for compliance in keeping themselves and others safe.

As far as I'm aware, local business hasn't been harmed by exclusion from her valuable resource. Every time I leave my house, I see more citizens shopping in stores where masks seem optional although they're posted as required. It seems that business is thriving everywhere anyway.



Name: Sadie Colbeck

Address:

Black Hawk, SD 57718

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: STAFF DIRECTION

Comment:

I would like to voice a comment on the side of Alderwoman Laura Armstrong.

As a person who has known Laura for over a year now, I know that she is trying to give information to Rapid City citizens. As someone who looks to Laura for guidance not only as a member of Youth City Council but as a young woman, I know she would never intentionally hurt or discriminate against anyone or any business.

Name: Angie Stanford

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing to voice my support for Laura Armstrong. From the beginning of this pandemic, she has put the health and safety of the citizens she was elected to serve above all else. She views her service as going beyond meetings. She has volunteered and supported organizations throughout the community. Her limited support of the Caring Business Facebook page is an example of her devotion to public service. The Caring Business page provides a valuable service to members of the community who want to support local businesses and stay safe. I have never seen any negative posts shaming businesses that choose not to follow CDC guidelines.

I stand with Mrs. Armstrong and those bringing this suit should be ashamed.

Name: Cheyne Cumming

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura B Armstrong

Comment:

I am very grateful for the presence of Laura B Armstrong on the City Council. She always puts the best interests of Rapid City's residents first. I appreciate her willingness to mandate masks in order to save lives and keep our healthcare workers from being overwhelmed. She has courage when other council members fall short! She has my full support.

Name: Sammi Kenzy

Address:

Rapid City

So.Dak.

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

The on going argument is how we can live with Covid and safely come out on the other side. This virus is new to ALL of us! We have listened to those who know more on virology than we, but no one has the answers yet! Those that are in position to "lead us" do so with our best interests to protect ALL of us! And in this case, trying to protect our most vulnerable! I WANT to know who mandates mask so I feel safe shopping. I believe you have a bunch of red necks out there trying to cause trouble because they don't want ANYONE telling them what to do in regards to the safety of themselves or others. And to imply that Laura was urging others to boycott them, is ridiculous! Those same pot stirrers are at the stock show now without a mask because they have NO regard for their safety (or others) and have (the right) to jeopardize ME for the almighty dollar!

Leave Laura alone! Spend your time and energy on the REAL problems in this community!

Name: Leigh shaw

Address: rapid city, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has provided consistently strong leadership. Her commitment to ALL citizens of Rapid City is evident in her willingness to listen to science, act upon facts, and bring forth a smile of kindness in the midst of heated challenges. Laura makes a significant contribution to our community as a health professional and as a representative for our community. The attacks launched against her are appalling. Wearing a mask, following CDC recommendations to keep our communities safe is not a political statement, although some disruptive individuals would lead you to believe it is. I have witnessed Laura's willingness to listen, learn and lead. I hope all will act in the best interest of our community and make a choice on the side of what is best for our citizens and support the strong leadership of Laura Armstrong. Thank you.

#IstandwithLauraArmstrong

Name: Bonnie Bjork

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am submitting this comment in support of Laura Armstrong. She has provided to the City Commission and the citizens of Rapid City fact based information with regard to Covid 19. She cares about our citizens and the public health of our community. She represented many of us who chose to follow the science based guidelines of the CDC.

She also helped many of us by providing a forum where we could go on Facebook to find local businesses that also chose to follow those guidelines.

She represents a section of the community just as those Council members who opposed any limitations did. I urge you not to take any action to suppress our representation and take sanctions against Councilwoman Armstrong. We need her voice.

Name: Kay LaFrance

Address: Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

My daughter, Natalie Slack, and Laura Armstrong started a Caring Businesses page on Facebook to help people like my husband and I, who both have had cancer diagnosis in the past few years, find safe places to shop. Natalie, a small business owner, has spent many years helping other small businesses with their logos and their websites. Her work is visible all over downtown and across the Black Hills. She is invested heavily in our safety and in keeping Rapid City's local economy running. Laura did not overstep her leadership in supporting and working with Natalie in this effort - but rather used her reach to allow more at risk people, like myself, to have access to information and safety when there were no closures or mask mandates in effect. I've felt safer in Rapid City with this info.

Laura is a leader. I appreciate her consideration of those more vulnerable in our community and am writing in her support.

Thank you,

Kay LaFrance

Name: Jessica Utecht-Whillock

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am proud of our community in Rapid City. We do a lot of good for ALL our people no matter their race, gender, financial status, political party, sexual orientation. One person who works very hard to make Rapid City a good place for ALL of us is Laura Armstrong. She is a genuine good hearted, hardworking, calm, professional ALL communities would be lucky to have let alone making a difference in and out of her city council position. Those trying to attack Laura's character have a right to speak, but not to defame. I hope this meeting is a formality only and is dismissed immediately. I am certain those who work with Laura on critical issues related to our community can see how deeply she cares and how she strives to do the RIGHT thing. We NEED people like Laura in City Council. Thank you for your time.



Name: Jessica Fenner

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura is a kind, conscientious, caring member of this community and she does her best to serve our city, especially those of us that have a hard time standing up against the divisiveness and negativity coming from folks that are anti-mask, anti-science, and anti-government. Their personal and individual freedoms have come at a hefty cost for the rest of us. I've watched many of the city council meetings live on Facebook. I've seen the anger and nastiness directed at Laura, and some of the other council members. I am appalled that these folks have now launched a smear campaign against her when she has worked tirelessly to represent/ protect her constituents under extraordinary circumstances. These folks need to take a hard look in the mirror.

She has done a fantastic job and I applaud her for standing up for science, wellness, and the safety of her community.

Name: Dominique Heier

Address:

RC SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura ARMSTRONG

Comment:

I'm asking Phil Jensen and others to back off, and start acting like elected officials. Laura Armstrong is a doing her job and beliefs in science and facts. My brother is in the medical field, they all support masks a and social distancing.

Let's stop this nonsense that we are all "cowboys" and there are no rules in life. Less government and no regulation isn't working. Honestly it is embarrassing to be from SD now days. Meet with the local doctors or nurses that have to endure this awful pandemic.

This childish behavior needs to stop.

Name: Deborah Harrowa

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I would like to THANK Laura Armstrong for looking out FOR the community members. She has done a great job on city council and district that she represents. Please let LAURA ARMSTRONG continue to work for the people and in the best interest of all of Rapid City!

Name: Derek Dewees

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Executive Session re Laura Armst

Comment:

I strongly support council president Armstrong and hope that the mean spirited attacks on her performance and conduct will be repulsed.

Name: Marta Olson-Rangitsch

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Conduct complaint against Alderwoman Laura Armstrong.

Comment:

I believe the complaints against Alderwoman Armstrong are based on false claims. The page administrator, not Armstrong, was asking businesses following CDC recommendations to post. I listed our business on the FB page. Our business was not coerced, nor did we receive special recognition. Anyone could post. The page clearly stated disparaging comments/hate speech would be removed. Businesses/consumers were describing changes made to safely serve customers. I would point out Elevate RC was also allowing businesses to make similar posts on Elevate's social media. I appreciated the city and the Chamber allowing us to share how we were caring for our employees so we could pay them and stay open. We continue to put staff safety first, pay their wages and to keep our store open throughout the pandemic. Any statement that this website created a hostile work environment or gave special treatment to compliant businesses is simply untrue.

Name: Sean Bradley

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am absolutely appalled at the half-truths and outright lies being spread about our City Council President Laura Armstrong. Citizens for Liberty has engaged in a smear campaign that has no basis in truth because they disagree with Armstrong's political position.. What she has done is act with caring and compassion for all citizens of Rapid City by trying to get the City Council to institute a mask mandate based on scientific evidence – the same evidence the CDC, the WHO, Johns Hopkins, the Mayo Clinic, Walter Reed, and countless other research hospitals and scientific entities have confirmed. Armstrong is not condescending – she is passionate and knowledgeable. She has done nothing to violate section A2 of the City Council code of conduct. She deserves none of what has been wrongfully thrown at her.

Name: Kirsten Hollenbeck

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong. She has faced unprecedented levels of vitriol and anger as she has lead the City Council under the most difficult of circumstances. Her commitment to ALL citizens of Rapid City is evident in her willingness to listen to science, act upon facts, and bring forth a smile of kindness in the midst of heated challenges. Laura makes a significant contribution to our community as a health professional and as a representative for our community. The attacks launched against her are appalling. Wearing a mask, following CDC recommendations to keep our communities safe is not a political statement, although some disruptive individuals would lead you to believe it is. I have witnessed Laura's willingness to listen, learn and lead. I hope all will act in the best interest of our community and make a choice on the side of what is best for our citizens and support the strong leadership of Laura Armstrong.

Name: Nancy K Stephenson

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I believe Laura Armstrong is being unfairly targeted. She has the best interests of our citizens. Her work in identifying businesses that are caring for the safety of their employees and customers by requiring masks and other pandemic safety measures. She does not deserve to be removed from office.



Name: Mary Jo Farrington

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

The covid pandemic is REAL...with very specific public health procedures to protect ourselves and others.

WEAR MASKS around people. SOCIAL DISTANCE around people when possible. WASH HANDS OFTEN!

I fully support Laura Armstrong's frustration with people who refuse to comply. I still think the City Council

should make a mask MANDATE! Laura and others on the Council are trying to do what is right to save lives.

Name: Mary and David Mickley

Address:

Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Executive action Laura Armstrong

Comment:

We are writing to voice our strong support in favor of Laura Armstrong. She works tirelessly to promote Rapid City and is a positive voice for her constituents and we honestly wish she represented our ward. She has been targeted by a political group that works to undermine those who choose to listen to factual information and votes in the best interests of her people and all of Rapid City. We support her 100%! Keep up the great work Laura!

Name: Joni Zaiser

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I writing in 100% support of Laura Armstrong. Laura is my council person and I voted for her. The attack on her from certain individuals in the community are truly offensive. Its hard to believe that all this is over wearing masks and trying to keep people safe. It's ridiculous that it has come to this point. I belong to the face book group that has been mentioned. I can't tell you how much I appreciate this group. I am an at risk individual and it's great to have a place where I can find businesses that support my need to stay safe. The site is always positive and never calls out businesses that don't support mask wearing and such. I personally don't shop at places that don't require masks and I think that others have the choice to not shop at places that do. Laura's views come from a point of caring for the people of Rapid City and does not deserve to be censured or removed from her position.

Name: Tass Thacker

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I feel Laura Armstrong has been doing an excellent job as city council president. I don't think she has done anything wrong as far as the curing business site. She did not set it up.

Move onto more important things, please.

Name: Lisa F Cook

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I hereby submit my comment in support of Laura Armstrong. The Complaints against her are not made in good faith and, instead, are targeted attacks by political extremists. I believe that Laura advocated properly for a mask mandate and provided public information about masks for visitors that embody total COMMON SENSE! Her list of businesses was a PRODUCT requested and needed by many visitors to the Black Hills. I appreciate Ms. Armstrong's concern and actions TO PROTECT OTHERS and I appreciate knowing which businesses respect MY FREEDOM to be virus free and around individuals that respect others' desire for masks in public. I will not frequent a maskless business and that is MY freedom.

Name: Rebecca M Terk

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting:

Comment Type:

Agenda Item:

Comment:

This comment is in regard to discussions of censuring Council Member Laura Armstrong.

While I am not a resident of the City of Rapid City, I office and do almost all my business there.

I have listened to council meetings in which mask ordinances were discussed, and appreciate Armstrong's willingness to stand up for public health. I have seen the social media group she is allegedly involved in and find no evidence that it is a "black list." Whatever her involvement, the page has been used to lift up businesses who follow CDC guidelines without disparaging those who don't.

The complaints lodged against Armstrong are an attempt to remove a duly-elected public official under false pretenses. Armstrong should be cleared of any wrongdoing. Those who have perpetrated this undemocratic action against her ought to be publicly reprimanded, and any council member who is found to have collaborated should themselves be censured or removed.

Name: PATRICIA Ann MARTINSON

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I would like to write in support of Laura Armstrong. I am aghast that others would castigate her for ensuring the health and well-being of the people of Rapid City. Councilwoman Armstrong has been and will continue to have the best interest of our community at heart and in her words and actions. I appreciate that so much!

Name: Mary Kelley

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Complaint against Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of Council President Laura Armstrong. She has worked diligently on behalf of the citizens of our community, providing leadership and doing a difficult job at a difficult time. She represents Rapid City well and does so only in the service of our community and never in her personal self-interest. She is a hero and deserves our thanks.



Name: Janene Trammell-Polk

Address: RCSD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

This letter is in support of Laura Armstrong. She is hard working, cares for our community and is courageous in her efforts to keep our community safe.

Thank you

Name: Lori Parrott

Address:

Albuquerque, NM 87122

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am a Rapid City native and frequent visitor, as my family members are in care facilities there. I am so grateful for those Rapid City residents who wear masks and practice safe practices. I support Laura Armstrong's actions on the City Council to encourage Rapid City to recognize science and to take care of its own and its visitors. Too many underpaid (and uninsured) workers are put at risk of illness when we are not cognizant and take precautions.

Name: Judy Ellen Sneller

Address: Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I'm writing to support Laura Armstrong against the bullying and threats and selfishness from anti-maskers and the so-called Citizens for Liberty who never stand for anything progressive or good for RC. Laura has done nothing but try to protect citizens during this pandemic by relying on science, kindness and common sense. Her stance on wearing masks as ONE of the KEY weapons against Covid19 spread is supported by every major scientific organization (CDC, NIH and WHO). Yes, the data IS in. Asking businesses to honestly tell the public if they are requiring masks is important because many of us do NOT wish to enter a business not requiring masks because of higher danger of being infected. This does nothing to inhibit the business' choice to protect or not protect its patrons. Laura should be applauded for her knowledgeable, compassionate service. That she is even being discussed negatively by the Council in this manner is appalling.

Name: Vaudeth Oberlander

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am highly pleased with the work of Laura Armstrong and do not wish for her to be taken off the City Council. She is a valuable and hard working person.

Name: Susan E Drey

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong Discussion

Comment:

Laura Armstrong was the first city council person I met when she was speaking during Greta Thunberg's visit. I was immediately drawn to Laura's love and compassion for this city, and her leadership that was strong, but also kind. I have followed her ever since and watched her lead this city with courage and persistence, and a great concern for the well fare of all it's citizens.

Name: Dexter Carman

Address:

Rapid city, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Rapid City Councilwoman Laura Armstrong is a true servant of the people - a leader not without flaws, but with self-awareness of her responsibility to grow and learn alongside the community she serves. It is our ability to disagree and move forward, that makes our government work - be it in Rapid City, or at the state and federal levels. Calls for Councilwoman Armstrong's removal are a politically motivated hit-job indicative of the "cancel culture" so often (justifiably) decried by those on the political right. We are not Pierre, we are not Washington, we are Rapid City - and we are better than this, so long as we resist the urge to govern according to the most base characteristics of our humanity.

Thank you for your service to this community and consideration of my comments,

Dexter Carman

Rapid City Parent and Business Owner

Name: Suzanne D Stratford

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

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

Comment:

We support Laura Armstrong. Ms. Armstrong puts the community's well-being ahead of her personal priorities. She listens deeply to opposing views & finds common threads of understanding. Her participation in "Caring Businesses of RC" illustrates her care & concern for the vulnerable in our midst. We appreciate efforts to identify spaces of safety that adhere to CDC guidelines during the Covid-19 crisis. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but "facts matter". Nowhere is there an intimation that businesses are being subjected to "harassment or blackballing". We elect leaders to "lead" & do the right thing by working for the health, safety & benefit of our community. We value our right to freedom of speech & honor its exercise to express all points of view respectfully. Silencing this right sends a chilling message across our community. We should strive instead to bring opposing views together to find areas of commonality.

Name: Chuck Parkinson

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

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

Comment:

We support Laura Armstrong. Ms. Armstrong puts the community's well-being ahead of her personal priorities. She listens deeply to opposing views & finds common threads of understanding. Her participation in "Caring Businesses of RC" illustrates her care & concern for the vulnerable in our midst. We appreciate efforts to identify spaces of safety that adhere to CDC guidelines during the Covid-19 crisis. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but "facts matter". Nowhere is there an intimation that businesses are being subjected to "harassment or blackballing". We elect leaders to "lead" & do the right thing by working for the health, safety & benefit of our community. We value our right to freedom of speech & honor its exercise to express all points of view respectfully. Silencing this right sends a chilling message across our community. We should strive instead to bring opposing views together to find areas of commonality.



Name: Heidi Bell Gease

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Just adding my two cents in support of Laura Armstrong. She has had a thankless job and I so appreciate her efforts to protect our public health. Those opposing her are behaving like bullies.

Name: Justin Herreman

Address:

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Executive Session

Comment:

As a citizen of Rapid City and a strong supporter of fair and balanced government, I am disheartened by the fact this complaint against Councilwoman Armstrong is on the agenda and hope this non-factual and scurrilous complaint is summarily dismissed. At no point and time was the Facebook group referenced in the complaint ever a "blacklist" of businesses but was in fact well moderated to ensure negative comments were not allowed, and it is truly a public service for those members of our community that are immunocompromised, and have underlying health conditions making them more susceptible to the deleterious and deadly consequences of infection by the SARS-COV2 Virus. Ms. Armstrong, a licensed healthcare provider, has advocated for reasonable health & safety measures for our community and has not exceeded her purview as a Council Member. Please do not let a loud and vocal MINORITY assassinate the character of our Council President.

Name: Jodyl Severson

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I strongly support Laura Armstrong's efforts to require masking as much as the City can possibly do so. Please reject the efforts of a handful of extremists to harass her. No one has the right to give someone else a deadly disease when it can be easily prevented. Thank you.

Name: Michael Loomer

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Good morning, I support Board President Armstrongs attempt to keep our community safe during the coronavirus pandemic and absolutely do not support any movement to censure Her actions or comments. She's is thoroughly Qualified, competent, performing well, of upmost character, and perfectly fit for the job.

Thank you

Mike Loomer

Name: Mary Mcdaniel

Address: Rapid city, sd 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong. I feel she is a a strong leader and is looking out for the health and well-being of our community

Name: Melissa Rowe

Address: RC

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask wearing

Comment:

As a retired nurse I stand on science and mask wearing has been proven to mitigate the spread of airborne covid virus.

I would ask you to help enact something to help businesses and citizens stand together to protect each other.

Thank you

Melissa

Name: Jacqueline Hatzell

Address: Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Re: Laura Armstrong - I encourage you to read the RC Journal article on Caring Businesses Facebook page...

"We were in agreement that the page would be a tool and a resource for safety and compassion, not a negative platform for business shaming or poor experiences".

Let's knock off the Democrat bashing and just support one another. The Trump mentality of squashing people who do good is tiresome and does not belong here. Thank you

Name: Kara Azevedo

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has my full support as a citizen, and as a member of the city council. The attacks against her are baseless and undeserving. She is a valued member of our community and must be allowed to continue to serve her term. I continue to value her actions and input on our city. I would be extremely disappointed to see her reputation tarnished by a group who appears to value senseless bullying of anyone who has an opposing opinion. I 100% stand behind Laura.



Name: Tim Rangitsch

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Just a quick note to voice support for Laura Armstrong. She is an advocate for businesses of Rapid City. She is also informative and goes over the top to find answers and make a positive difference for her constituents and the City of Rapid City at large.

Name: Chris Stover

Address: Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing today in support of Laura Armstrong.

I find it unfortunate that a strong leader of our community is being called out for helping inform it's citizens. Identifying businesses that follow CDC guidelines is not playing favorites, it is helping me be a more informed citizen. Clearly, not wearing a mask is a political statement that puts my health, your health, my parents health, all of Rapid City's health in peril. And to think that one our leaders, who understands that, has put the health and well-being of EVERYONE in this community as a priority should be attacked for caring us, is unconscionable. Most days I am at a loss for words for the ignorant behavior I see in this town regarding this pandemic.

Today, I am not. Laura Armstrong has my full support and should be applauded as a leader in this community.

Name: Jan Swank

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong complaints investigation

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is one of our representatives from Ward 5. We are very pleased with her work! She keeps in touch through social media, and she is always available for our public problems and comments. We are seriously concerned that a cabal of special interests has organized a campaign of spurious complaints against her for political reasons. We will be ill a served if the Council takes these complaints seriously. We support Laura!

Sincerely,

Jan and Jill Swank

Name: Denise Du Broy

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong Discussion

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has my unwavering support. I wish all our council members were as hard working , smart and caring as she. Laura always has the interest of our community and her constituents in the forefront of her mind and her agenda. Masking, and social distancing should be huge healthcare concerns to everyone in our community at this point in time. These issues are not about individual freedom. Your choice to wear a mask in our stores or public buildings in Rapid City affects the health and well-being of everyone around you. This is an issue about saving lives and protecting our parents, our families, our friends and colleagues. Anyone who disagrees with our need to mask, should be voted out of office.

Name: Curtis Price

Address: RC 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I speak in full-throated support for Councillor Laura B Armstrong. She has been serving the public well, urging common sense and safety to curb the pandemic here, and the City Council should laud and honor her excellent service. While you are at it, the loudmouth complainers that refuse follow minimal CDC guidance while inside the building deserve to lose their right to speak in chambers, they should not only have to leave but be banned for a month.

Name: Kathleen Gamet

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am appalled to hear of the complaints against Ms Armstrong regarding her support if those of us who are unable to go into a business that does not promote mask wearing. I have been a citizen of this city my entire 64 years and am thoroughly ashamed of the members of this community such as Phil Jensen, who are so disrespectful and derisive towards Laura in her efforts to help residents such as me who have Heath issues which prevent us from entering establishments not requiring masks. What has happened to human decency? Without the information Laura Armstrong offered, I wouldn't be able to shop in this city. I am grateful for Laura Armstrong for her thoughtfulness for the all citizens in this city, not just those who think and believe the way she does.

Name: Kerri Stover

Address: Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong discussion

Comment:

Ms. Armstrong is accused of "advertising" businesses that do not follow CDC guidelines/require masks. On the contrary, Ms. Armstrong works for the well-being of all by identifying the businesses that DO follow CDC guidelines/require masks. Is this not her role as community leader? Is that not what science and Dr. Fauci have advised? I have seen nothing from Laura Armstrong that tells us where we should/should not shop.

How unfortunate that the health/well-being of Rapid Citians has been turned into a political football. The claims against Ms. Armstrong have twisted a citizen-serving gesture into something ugly because it did not align with others' politics. Masking isn't about politics. Rather, it is about safety for ALL during a pandemic that the best of our scientists and docs have yet to truly understand. Laura gets that.

I respectfully request that you drop this matter and support our Council President.

Name: Anna Fleming

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I agree with Stan Adelstein:

Stanford Adelstein,

“ Laura Armstrong is one of the 10 most outstanding members of the city Council in the last 50 years that I have been in close contact with city government.

Not only is she highly intelligent, an excellent listener, and a keen observer of the needs of every citizen – she is never hesitant to speak about what she knows to be the truth.

(Section removed to fit character limit)

To suggest that it is not is like saying that gravity does not exist – that Covid cannot be prevented except by God’s will – that as an elected person she does not have the right to tell this truth on any media at any time.

For the City Council to even entertain the idea of censure for integrity and honesty is outrageous.

Frankly, it would seem to me that every other member of the Council and the Mayor should honor her caring with a statement of public commendation.”



Name: Annie Loyd

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has provided consistently strong leadership. Her commitment to ALL citizens of Rapid City is evident in her willingness to listen to science, act upon facts, and bring forth a smile of kindness in the midst of heated challenges. Laura makes a significant contribution to our community as a health professional and as a representative for our community. The attacks launched against her are appalling. Wearing a mask, following CDC recommendations to keep our communities safe is not a political statement, although some disruptive individuals would lead you to believe it is. I have witnessed Laura's willingness to listen, learn and lead. I hope all will act in the best interest of our community and make a choice on the side of what is best for our citizens and support the strong leadership of Laura Armstrong. Thank you.

Name: Jean Roach

Address:

Rapid City, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

We support Laura in her battle against COVID19 based on scientific evidence of protecting others against the virus!

Store owners should show responsibility to the public and require face coverings!

Name: tom schmitz

Address: Deadwood

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: President Armstrong's Fitness for Office

Comment:

Anyone, like President Armstrong, who stands for public health measures to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 deserves praise from our elected representatives. Those who have advocated against measures citing impingement on freedoms or economic activity deserve scorn. Lives lost or permanently damaged in exchange for profits is a trade unworthy of anyone seeking serve the people. Please support President Armstrong's actions regarding Covid-19.

Name: Mary Haan

Address: Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I truly cannot believe that our City is wasting time and money entertaining the witch hunt currently being led by Tonchi Weaver. This entire situation should be laughable; instead, it is outrageous and infuriating. A simple search of the history of Council President Armstrong shows a consistent commitment to building up the community. The same search applied to Tonchi Weaver shows a history of belittling others, hostility toward neighbors, and a commitment to division within the community. This is a no-brainer. Supporting the gossip and slander of Tonchi Weaver is egregious. The City should be ashamed that you've even entertained Ms Weaver thus far.

Council President Laura Armstrong continues to be a strong leader in our community, a compassionate voice for tradition AND progress, and a truly exquisite role model for my daughters, myself, and our community.

Name: Lillas Jarding

Address: Rapid City 57702 - Ward 5

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong's future

Comment:

I have worked with Laura Armstrong on major City issues and found her to be committed to the welfare of the City and its citizens. She is professional and well-informed. I think this attempt to remove her is strictly political -- someone doesn't agree with her. That is not a good reason to remove someone from the Council. Very quickly, there would be no one left on the Council. I also think it would make the Council and our City look bad if you were to remove another woman from the Council in such a short period of time. It would begin to look like our City has a problem with women in positions of influence. Laura has done nothing wrong. She should be retained on the Council.

Name: Robin Englehart Bagley

Address: Custer SD 57730

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Dear Rapid City Councilors:

As someone who does business in Rapid City, I strongly support Laura Armstrong's efforts to help provide information on which businesses were working to keep their customers and employees safe during the Covid pandemic. There was no "blacklisting." I do not believe the Council should take any action against her. Thank you for your time.

Robin Englehart Bagley

Name: Emily Tupa

Address: Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Re: City Council President Armstrong. The facts are simple and not controversial. She was part of a group that shared local businesses following CDC guideline (a valuable resource for people trying to safely navigate the pandemic). However, some claim this was unfair or akin to a boycott. I ask those people; how can you claim "persecution" when your side won? Your protesting ensured our community didn't implement a mask mandate. Why wasn't that enough? Now you insist we silence anyone who shares info on: 'Where to go'? I thought your side valued freedom? You have freedom from mask wearing and we have the freedom to shop where we feel safe. This has gotten so ugly. I am ashamed for us all. We should have come through this together. Instead, we politicized science and mask-wearing. We said those who valued public health were somehow part of a "witch hunt." Ironically, that's exactly what this is against Ms. Armstrong-- a witch hunt.

Name: Tom Whillock

Address:

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura B. Armstrong is a courageous and creative advocate for the people of Rapid City. I've been following her since she first ran for office, and I am continually impressed by how hard she works for and how much she cares about serving this community. The complaints about her are completely ridiculous and groundless. Thank you!



Name: Carol Waider

Address: Rapid City, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I would like to voice my support for Laura Armstrong. I am so grateful for her work for our community. She has been educated, fair, and dedicated. This city has forgotten about the compromised and elderly population. There are people who have been unable to be out and about because of the pandemic. I personally do not make decisions about where to spend my money from Facebook. I also I haven't seen anyone shaming any Rapid City businesses. What I have seen are business owners coming to the city council meetings. A quick google search makes it pretty easy to figure out which businesses a person owns. Many of these businesses owners have refused to wear masks when it is required in the city building. They have talked during the meetings, degraded the mayor, and tried to shame our city council. Maybe instead of being worried about what is or is not on Facebook these owners should instead focus upon how to show this community some compassion

Name: Kim M Morsching

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura B Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. Laura is a voice for a group of citizens who choose to take extra precautions with mask wearing and shopping at businesses who require mask wearing. Her voice counts and our voices count. We are a better City with Laura Armstrong on the City Council. Balance of opinions is important.

Name: Amy McGovern

Address:

Box Elder

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I'm writing in support of Laura Armstrong. I can appreciate careful scrutiny of elected officials but I cannot fathom the levels certain Citizens are willing to go to manipulate the city council. My family is attached to Ellsworth AFB and as a result needed to implement masks, distancing, and exceptional attention to detail in order to support our community. I have far greater concerns stemming from Mr. Roberts and Mr. Weifenbach appearing to show support for and speaking at Citizens For Liberty meetings. There is zero doubt that Laura has stood on the side of best practice and mitigation efforts. Shame on any of you being so gullible as to fall for a blatant and definitely refutable misinformation campaign. Those who scoff and refuse to help their neighbors have made themselves quite clear and during public meetings. No one ever had to compile a list; they have outed themselves loudly and repeatedly.

Name: Kelle Cavanaugh

Address: Rapid City, S's 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Masks, Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I'm a 60 year old lifelong Rapid City resident who appreciates everything ms. Armstrong has done to promote masks in public places. Myself, my husband and my 80 year old mom have underlying conditions and need to be careful in public. Putting on a mask is not taking away liberty, it's caring for your neighbors! I fully support Ms. Armstrong!!!!

Name: Nguyet Gruba

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I just wanted to say a quick thank you to Laura Armstrong, I would rather shop in places that have a mask mandate. Thank you for trying to keep us safe!

Name: Bonita A. Edwards

Address: Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am offering my support for Laura Armstrong. She is doing an amazing job and doesn't deserve the blowback she is getting.

Name: Jesse Roltgen

Address: Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura B Armstrong is a valued member of our community leadership. Her determination to keep our community safe and healthy should be celebrated, not condemned.

Name: Lesley Wilkinson

Address:

Rapid City 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: President Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is a true leader who has tried to protect the citizens of Rapid City during the pandemic using science and recommendations from medical experts. The Citizens for Liberty are trying to twist her efforts into something nefarious. I support her. The efforts to remove her with lies and misinformation need to stop.



Name: Jessi Drury

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am proud that Laura is my Council Woman. She has been positive and friendly and believes in science and logic. It's disappointing to me that we would allow the public(some with criminal records) to drag her name through the mud over downright lies. She has done nothing but support CDC suggested guidelines. I support Laura and I am proud of her, she has continued to be a voice for some of us who know the Covid isn't a hoax and those of us who believe in science. If more council members mirrored Laura's ethics our city would likely be a better place.

Name: Melissa Biehl

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Armstrong

Comment:

I would like to fully support and applaud Laura Armstrong for her tireless work for our community. I also am thankful for her caring business Facebook page as I take care of my elderly parents and find it very valuable tool in making day to day decisions trying to navigate this virus safely!!!

Name: Sara Hornick

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I just want to show my support for Laura Armstrong. As a person who is very supportive of masks and supporting businesses that have COVID- friendly procedures in place, I appreciate and support all of Laura Armstrong's efforts in creating a Facebook page that promotes COVID- friendly businesses. I have never seen any negative posts on this page and find the page a breath of fresh air when looking to support businesses in our community. Laura Armstrong is a voice we need in city leadership and I support her in using this voice for good. She has proven her compassion and empathy for some of our cities most vulnerable citizens.

Name: Carol Hayse

Address:

Nemo, SD 57759

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I buy all of my groceries and other products (hardware stores) in Rapid. I was and am very afraid of catching the COVID virus, especially because I am in a vulnerable group. I am SO grateful to Laura Armstrong for giving me the heads-up about the stores in which I am less likely to become infected. Laura should be honored as an exceptional and caring citizen, not threatened . Do NOT remove her!

Name: Lyn Tysdal

Address:

RC, SD. 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Executive Session

Comment:

It is time to stand up to the bullies to Citizens for Liberty! It is too bad that they are intimidated by a caring and strong leader who represents the citizens of Rapid City!

Keep Laura Armstrong as President of the city council!

PS. A Rapid City mask mandate is needed as indicated by science and hospital health officials of this state!

Name: APRIL OEDEKOVEN

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong. She has been looking out for people's safety. She has put safety over profit. I greatly appreciate this. She has done nothing wrong. She should not be punished or censored for caring for the people of Rapid City.

Name: Raelin Karstens

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is who we need on our city council - and is who was elected by the people. Those filing complaints are in the minority. Claims of cyber-bullying are simply an attempted smear campaign. Laura did not participate in "destroying businesses" or "backlisting". Much of this hate comes from SD Citizens for Liberty members claiming Laura Armstrong to be participating in gross partiality. If that was really an issue, why is it okay for city council members John Roberts and Ron Weifenbach to speak at and attend the Citizens for Liberty meeting on December 3rd, 2020? Wouldn't that also be considered gross partiality? Not only that, but the people filing these reports have the audacity to compare the holocaust to mask-wearing (in writing under Brandon Scales formal complaint against Armstrong and multiple times from others at mandate meetings). Are you really going to side with those people?

Name: Jerry Meyer

Address: Black Hawk, SD 57718

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I'm writing to express my support for city councilwoman Laura Armstrong. I think she's one of the best council members ever. Laura cares about the people of the Rapid City area and the environment we live in. I highly respect her decision making and priorities. I think the efforts to diminish her name and standing as a council member and to remove her from the council are brought forward by a misguided and disgruntled group that presents a false narrative about Laura's work. Keep Laura on the council!



Name: Josh Dailey

Address:

Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is doing great things for the city. My wife loves the covid safe page on Facebook. Full of helpful people just doing the right thing, HELPING each other. No negativity just a community working together.

Name: Molly Dailey

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. The Facebook page she was part of has been a great help to my family. I have felt safer shopping and loved the positive posts that helped our community. I never once saw a negative comment or any type of shaming. I hope you realize what an absolute treasure of a human being that Laura is. Please know that the CFL organization does NOT have the support of any of my family.

Name: Roxanne Rathbun

Address: Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

We support Laura Armstrong and her full approach to keeping Rapid City safe. We appreciate her hard work. She always has the best interest of the people in mind. We have + still do agree with her ideas, mask recommendations, and the FB page which addresses the safe places in Rapid City.

Name: Amy Maxson

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask proposal

Comment:

I hope Rapid City will reconsider a mask proposal. I wish those in public facing business who need to be COVID cautious would be better protected.

Name: Barbara Chapman

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong and believe she is honest, trustworthy and truly concerned for her constituents. Laura cares about keeping the citizens of Rapid City safe from COVID-19 by promoting scientifically based ideas. Wearing a mask is one thing we can all easily do to help stop the spread of the virus. Laura supports small businesses and has never denigrated any business just because they don't promote mask wearing. We all have a right to know which businesses do or don't require masks so we can make informed decisions regarding where to shop. Citizens For Liberty seem to be on a witch hunt. Please don't let this group influence any decisions regarding Laura. She is a great asset to the city and needs to remain on the City Council as President.

Name: Deborah Grace

Address:

Rapid City, South Dakota

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: In support of Laura Armstrong

Comment:

This unfortunate situation in Rapid City is tearing our town apart. Maskers vs non-maskers? Science vs untruths? Consideration for our neighbors vs blatant disregard. Laura Armstrong is the victim of some very vindictive behavior by a radical group of dangerous people who do not accept CDC guidelines. Anyone that puts my family's (who has several immunocompromised members) health at risk is dangerous to me. This issue needs to be put to rest and Laura's reputation restored.

Name: Roxane Lutke

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I so appreciate Ms. Armstrong for being willing to stand up for those in the community who feel the need to ( follow the science ) wear masks. My husband and I are in the vulnerable population due to medical conditions and our age. We choose to patronize those businesses that support mask wearing and wish all businesses would do this. However, we accept that masks are not supported by every business nor many consumers in our community. We do not support those businesses, they pose an additional risk to us, that we choose to avoid. I wish there were signs at every business stating their stance on masks. Not going to happen. Ok. But DO NOT punish someone who is trying to be of help to those in the community who are vulnerable and most at risk from this virus—especially as it continues to change bringing new risks to us.

Name: Patsy Hanson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

As a resident of Rapid City since 1994, I realize how important local businesses are. As a cancer survivor with heart issues due to radiation and a person who has lost both parents to COVID-19, it is important to me to know which places are promoting safe shopping. The Caring Business website provides valuable information by sharing which places have CDC protocols in place. It also lets me know about businesses I don't normally think of that are safe alternatives for shopping locally. If this information wasn't readily available, I would have to waste time going places, only to turn around upon entering if I didn't feel safe, or worse for the community, shopping on-line with out of town vendors. With all the negativity around, it is refreshing to have a positive site to access this information. I appreciate Laura Armstrong's compassionate consideration of residents that want or need to be cautious and for being a voice for us.



Name: Deirdre Monahan

Address: Rapid City , SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing on to let you know that Ms. Slack speaks for me and many other residents when she advocated for mask wearing, and other common sense measures to keep our community safe and healthy. Please do not allow her important voice be censored. Thank you, Deirdre Monahan

Name: Fred Meyer

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

As a resident of Ward 5 I support Laura Armstrong. This seems like an unnecessary attack and word mincing. Phil Jensen, Citizens for Liberty, and Tonchi Weaver are trying to twist the intent of the Caring Businesses page drag my Ward rep through the mud. I implore you to dismiss this nonsense. Laura has done nothing wrong here. Thank you.

Name: Dowell Caselli-Smith

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Supporting Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I very much appreciate Laura Armstrong's initiative in trying to protect vulnerable community members by compiling a list of stores requiring masks.

I am 79. I have lived in Rapid City for over twenty years and have shopped here for over fifty years. I always wear a mask in public and much appreciate others who do so too. I do not appreciate anti-maskers berating me in line for wearing a mask and being "deluded" with no provocation from me.

Therefore, I am very much in favor of Laura Armstrong and her initiatives to keep us safer.

Name: Rebecca Caselli-Smith

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is one of my council members who I'm very proud to have voted for and support with great respect. As a 68 year old woman who retired from a 30 year career because of Covid risks, I was hoping the city council could pass a mask mandate. I am grateful for Laura Armstrong's integrity in voting for her vulnerable constituents. I am so sorry for the harsh ways you are all being treated by some of our community members. We may have different opinions but intimidation isn't what I want you, my representatives to have to endure. I wish I could vote intimidating behavior out and censor it for all of our sakes. I know I can't but I can and will strongly support Laura Armstrong. We need her voice and representation here in Rapid. Please do not censor her valuable voice. Thank you.

Name: Molly Thompson-Vander Heyden

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Dear City Council Members,

This is a letter of support for Laura Armstrong. As a woman of high risk for the Covid 19 virus as well as the primary caretaker to my mother who is undergoing Chemotherapy for Multiple Myeloma Cancer, I have appreciated Laura's advocacy and support of local businesses who are doing everything in their power to keep people like me and my mother safe. I have not felt like any of her advocacy has been negatively directed towards other businesses; in fact, quite the opposite. Please do NOT allow this slander agenda continue to go on when all she is doing is caring for her community in a way that other people have been fearful to do.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly Thompson-Vander Heyden

Name: Norm Rowland

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I'm a voter within Rapid City and I'm here to say Laura Armstrong is a great leader and a good City Councilwoman. She's been able to look beyond her own interests in support of the community and to help keep things safe.

I'm sick and tired of the crazy people in this community trying to sully the public servants of our community. If you disagree with this right wing mob, they come after and attack you.

We've got bigger fish to fry right now in this city. Let's move on for crying out loud.

Name: Valerie Simpson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Executive Session to hear charges against Council President

Comment:

I find the “charges” against Council President Armstrong are preposterous! With a 92-year-old father-in-law in our care and a husband who battled cancer less than a year ago, I am grateful for the Facebook group highlighting businesses who engaging in safe practices. What a blessing to have places to turn for that sort of valuable information. To equate Ms. Armstrong’s alliance with CDC guidelines as anywhere similar to the actions of a former city councilwoman is absolutely preposterous. I urge you to dismiss these charges as completely without merit.

Name: Jerry Munson

Address: RCSD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I want to express my concerns about the council possibly censuring or otherwise penalizing Alderwoman Armstrong. We all have the right to disagree about any multitude of issues, but her support of a third party list that names businesses that have a mask requirement does not rise to the level of any negative action being taken against her. You have lots of other urgent, much more important issues in front of you. That should be your focus, not this extension of the rancor that we all went through over the last few months, locally and nationally. I hope you decide to just move on. It's what the overwhelming majority of Rapid City residents want you to do. Thank you.



Name: Keryn Rowland

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Executive session-

Comment:

I am writing in support of Council President Laura Armstrong who I have known for 20 years. Her caring and compassion for others is her primary driver and that has not wavered, even through this pandemic. I believe her intent has always been to promote healthy choices within our community. That effort should be applauded, not criticized.

The radical group of complainers who state Armstrong has done something untoward are familiar to use all. They criticize anyone who disagrees with them and will take any means to silence others. There campaign against Armstrong is more of the same. I'd ask you to not let this bullying and intimidation tactic succeed.

During this pandemic, most of our leaders have "leaned out" rather than "leaned in" to help protect our community, based on personal freedom. Freedom should also apply to those that only want to provide needed health and safety information to constituents.

I support Laura.

Name: Jane Roseland

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Please ignore a very loud, vocal, anti-masking minority, who endanger public health while screaming personal freedom. They are irresponsible. And they seem to have Laura Armstrong in their crosshairs. I very much appreciate knowing which businesses are being responsible. Some businesses want it both ways. They can't cater to both people who refuse to wear masks and people who need to protect themselves. Laura Armstrong is a very intelligent, caring, effective council member who does not deserve to be persecuted. I am so glad to have her represent the needs and concerns that so many of us have. She has my thanks, my support and my gratitude!

Name: James Bingham

Address:

Rapid City, SD. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong represents my Ward and I support her 100%. The alleged business black list is not a black list or call for boycott. It is a listing of businesses that require masks. For those of us in the high risk category this is a public service.

Name: Laural A Bidwell

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. She was providing a public service by informing her constituents of business that followed CDC suggestions and requiring a mask. Laura Armstrong is my representative. I am also in a higher risk group should I contract covid. She did not say anything about businesses that didn't require lists. It was NOT a blacklist. I can't even believe that city council would consider removing her for trying to help her constituents stay safe. This whole "freedom" movement seems to me to be a way for people to refuse to help others during a very serious pandemic. Laura Armstrong IS my representative and I think she should be rewarded for her actions NOT sanctioned. Do not remove her from the council.

Laural A. Bidwell, Rapid City SD 57701 605-891-9037

Name: Eileen Leir

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has represented the needs of vulnerable people in RC and spoken and acted in a professional and ethical manner. She is acting within the rights of a citizen and advocating for a way to alert and allow citizens and tourists a means to figure out where to shop and eat to avoid exposure to COVID. Many would patron more businesses if they could feel safe. Well the result of her stepping up is to be targeted by a group that targets anyone who takes a stand or does not support their position. I hope the discussion on Monday recognizes this action by this group as a barrier to our rights as citizens and does not support this behavior.

Name: Julie Jackson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong discussion

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. Her involvement in caring businesses is not a conflict with her city council position. There are other council members who belong to groups that have the opposite position on some issues that caring businesses support, such as being anti-mask. She cannot be censured for her involvement unless these other members receive the same treatment.

Name: Dave Rowe

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Support Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong as the president of the city council.

Name: Peggy Nielsen

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Bless Laura Armstrong for caring about people and doing her job. I appreciate knowing where I can go as a health compromised individual. There are more pressing matters that need the city's attention, and this is crazy that it is even being considered!



Name: Connor Carlbom

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. The complaints she has received are unsubstantiated and were clearly written and filed out of anger fueled by misinformation. I hope to see her complete her term that is to end in 2023. At that point, the voters in her ward can make their decision.

Name: Haley Friedt

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is an asset to this city in every way and I have nothing but good things to say about her. She cares for the land we live on and all of the people on it. To even consider entertaining the idea of punishing her because a group of disgruntled science deniers had their feelings hurt is asinine. I understand though that this is the way local government works and that we must respect that, but I truly hope it will be recognized that the only thing Laura is guilty of is caring for the citizens of Rapid City - even the ones who dislike her. I support Laura wholeheartedly and hope to see her fulfill her full term.

Name: patricia braun

Address: 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Stop harassing Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Again I write to assert the fact Rapid City has a gem of a representative in City Council...Laura Armstrong.

Do not give the faction of folks who want Armstrong out ANY consideration.

I do not need to tell you we live in tough times. The folks who (baselessly) accuse her of a facebook page that is causing their business harm because there was a 'list' of nonmask mandated businesses is TOTALLY false. I find the facebook page to be TOO mild! There has never been a "list" as I, actually, would have preferred that so that I could then explore trying to do curbside service with that business, should I need them.

Please stop this absurd demand of kicking Armstrong out. It way out of line and demeaning to those participating in this senseless demand. Take a deep breath and realize you are picking on the kindest, most energetic person you will ever meet.

Thank you, Mayor and Council members, your public service is above and beyond.

Name: Lynn thorpe

Address:

Rapid city, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I want to express my support for Laura Armstrong.

She is one of the nest City Council members we have. Keep her, please.

Name: Angi Friedt

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I'm aware of the complaints towards councilmember Laura Armstrong and I cannot express my distaste enough for the hateful, inconsiderate, and incompetent citizens who have filed them. If they would've taken 10 minutes to do a bit of research, they'd see that they're wrong in their accusations. There is no abuse of power in expressing compassion and care for community. The Facebook page in question is nothing but positive - so much so that I am personally annoyed. I WISH it was a place where I could actively say negative things about businesses in this city that have no respect for CDC guidelines, but alas, it is a positive space and my comments would be removed.

I could go on, but what I mainly need to get across is that Laura is nothing but an asset to our city as a whole. Removing her from the council would do nothing but hurt our community which is always unnecessary, but especially so during this tough time.

Name: Eirik Asa Heikes, PLA

Address: Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City Council Discussion related to Laura Armstrong Feb 1, 2021

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong on City Council. She brings objectivity and professionalism to the Council. I believe that creating a list of businesses that require using masks per CDC guidelines is a positive for many who need to be careful or just have some assurances.

Saying that a list of businesses that do request exists is not blacklisting those that do not. It just gives people options.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance in supporting Laura Armstrong.

Please share with others that you know will have an interest in supporting Laura.

Name: Anastasia smith

Address: rapid city sd 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I support representative Laura Armstrong. She has been clear eyed and careful in a time when special interests are using hysteria to manipulate the people.

Name: Bill Fleming

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is one of the best council members Rapid City has ever had. It would be foolish to try to silence her. It would be doing our city a grave disservice.



Name: Bonny Fleming

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing express how much I respect Laura Armstrong's voice and leadership. Her commitment to the safety of her constituents is not only an asset to this community but something we could only wish from all our representatives.

I voted for Laura and would vote for her again. She speaks for me.

Name: KIBBE (Conti) Brown

AddressRapid City 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong Discussion

Comment:

I am writing in support of City Council member Laura Armstrong.

Laura is a most value member of our city council. She upholds her office with dedication, and respect for the diversity and the best interest of all in our community.

It is disappointing to hear that some community member have questioned her leadership and place on our council.

Thank you,

Kibbe Brown

Name: Lois Facer

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong and the work she does for Rapid City. She is a dedicated and honest member of the City Council. Her voice on the Council is one I voted for and continue to support. Do not censure Laura. Thank you, Lois Facer

Name: Eric Abrahamson

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong discussion

Comment:

I write to support Laura Armstrong and her work and service on the City Council. During her entire time on the Council, she has been extraordinarily responsive to her constituents and has been a thoughtful leader during an extremely difficult and divisive era in our history. I understand that opinions vary widely on the appropriate public response to the COVID epidemic. Laura has pursued policies that are and have been consistent with the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and leading epidemiologists. For that work, she has been vilified by those who disagree with her perspective. They have every right to share their opinions, but their frustration should not become an excuse for the City Council to overturn the vote of those of us in her district who voted for her, nor should their displeasure be justification for her censure. Please reject these efforts by a minority of voters to overturn the will of the people.

Name: Jessica Gromer

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong Discussion

Comment:

Greetings City Council,

My name is Jessica Gromer and a citizen of Ward 5 in Rapid City. I am writing to urge the Rapid City Council to support Laura Armstrong. It is my understanding that there is a move to remove Laura from the council. I have had the opportunity to get to know Laura through various organizations and efforts and I assure you that she has never demonstrated any misconduct or inappropriate action. She has always been professional and thoughtful. Allegations made regarding the Facebook page to follow CDC guidelines are simply false.

Laura leads the Council in a fair and just manner, demonstrating a commitment to Rapid City. Please support her at the upcoming meeting February 1st.

Respectfully,

Jessica Gromer

Name: Lindsay Huffman

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Discussion related to Laura Armstrong (February 1, 2021)

Comment:

Greetings,

I have no hesitation in supporting Laura. Laura takes a holistic approach when representing the community of Rapid City.

Laura is a phenomenal leader with impeccable, and admirable ethics.

Laura has been very influential in our community.

Laura has been a champion in leading the way in breaking down barriers so that new paths of healing can form.

Laura's perspective on the community has always been from her heart which is admirable in a leader that holistically represents the community. Laura continuously creates an environment where every individual is taken into consideration.

Please consider the substantial and encouraging progress our community has made while Laura has been on the City Council representing all walks of life.

I appreciate your time and I hope that these allegations can be dismissed so the essential work can continue.

Pilamayaye.

Name: William (Bill) May

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I unequivocally support Laura Armstrong's work on City Council. She is thoughtful and has put the good of Community first, on approving efforts to improve relationships to infrastructure and City growth. She has done so respectfully and civilly. As some one who takes COVID seriously, almost lost my brother-in-law, I appreciate knowing where businesses require masks - it promotes safety. I don't think it at all is outside her duties as a member of council and to the contrary is a clear exercise of her rights. Thank you!

Name: Curt Pochardt

Address:

RC, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I do not find the Agenda for the Feb 1, 2021 Meeting of the Common Council, but my comment pertains to the proposal to reprimand, censure, or remove Ward 5 Councilperson Laura Armstrong.

I do not live in Ward 5, but I am a resident of Rapid City and serve as President of the RC Area Schools Board of Education. As such, I am familiar with the types of challenges other local officials have had to confront during the past year. Ms. Armstrong has faced those challenges with wisdom and integrity. She has represented Rapid City as a conscientious public servant and deserves nothing but our praise and gratitude. The suggestion that she should be reprimanded, censured, or even removed from office is preposterous.

Sincerely, Curt Pochardt



Name: George J Nelson

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

A phony is someone who admonishes a publicly elected official for advocating for the safety of her voters while arguing that that person is unsafe to hold office. The critics of Laura Armstrong are only imitating righteousness.

Most of those in this witchhunt follow a leader who has advocated for the overthrowing of an election. Laura Armstrong's critics are as bad as the leader they have followed. I sincerely hope that Laura's fellow City Council members are able to see through the craziness of these witch hunters. I urge you to support Laura and recognize her extraordinary leadership during these tough times.

Name: Susan Kelts

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong issue

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is a dedicated, diligent public servant. She has worked tirelessly for the benefit of our city during the crisis of the pandemic. She was re-elected to the City Council without opposition. She should not be censured; she should be commended for her service.

Alan Anderson

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. I have watched her performance on the city council over the last few years and have developed the opinion that she is an outstanding representative of the best interests of the people of Rapid City and a fine human being. I believe that her actions during the issue regarding face masks is an example of that opinion. She acted in the best interest of our public health in the face of some very harsh, and I think misguided, opposition. I think that kind of courage should be rewarded and not be subjected to retribution by a vocal few.

In addition, I think that the mayor and the city council worked hard (in a stressful environment) to protect our public health during this epidemic. I think the current opposition to mask wearing by some, although vocal, is not the majority opinion in this community. I did not speak up in your support during the previous meetings when you were trying to do the right thing. For that I apologize. I urge you to maintain the courage to vote for the best interests of the public in general and not be intimidated by those who insult and threaten. I will try to do the same.

Heather Hoeye

Good Evening, I received my kidney transplant in August 2019. Like most transplant recipients, what followed were months of tweaking drugs and trying my utmost to be careful and safe due to my newly repressed immune system. Covid added a whole new layer of worry about how to do this, which leads me to my comment on Ms. Armstrong. Her co-creation of Caring Businesses on Facebook has been a great resource for immunocompromised people. By it's creation, she was helping her community. This is what she has been elected to do. Having information regarding business protocol allows me to make choices to keep myself safe. Does everyone need to use it or make these choices? Absolutely not. But it could be life saving for me. Caring Businesses is a page like any other interest page on Facebook. If someone is trying to attack Ms. Armstrong over a page that is transparent about its goal, allows freedom of choice, and is bringing awareness to our local businesses- perhaps we need to question whether the attack is over a FB page, or if someone has a personal agenda.

Name: Shannon White

Address: Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I'm writing in support of Laura Armstrong. Laura is a pillar of strength in our community, constantly striving for better community. She has fought for public community health, following science and the experts recommendations during this worldwide pandemic. I am disappointed that showing care and compassion for the community and those that are immunocompromised puts an elected official in the hot seat. Many of those in the Citizens for Liberty group spoke in a public forum, expressing their disdain for mask wearing and now they're upset that community members are discussing this? I thought they were proud of rebelling against known factual science. Laura has done nothing wrong. Please keep Laura in her elected position so she can continue to do great work!! Please also remember in your discussions that John Roberts and Ron Weifenbach were featured speakers at the Citizens for Liberty mtg. Appropriate?

Name: Amy Sazue

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong on City Council. She is a phenomenal leader with impeccable and admirable ethics.

She takes the time to learn about issues concerning our community. She continues to create an atmosphere where the community's wellbeing and health are the epitome of her decisions. I humbly ask that she continue her critical progress within the city by dismissing these allegations. She is an influential and prominent leader that we need and I stand behind her 100%.

I truly appreciate your assistance as we look to the positive progress and change that is needed. But in order to continue this, we need to keep our influential elected leaders in these critical roles.

Name: Si Issler

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Thank you for reading my letter. I have been a COVID nurse since the virus hit SD. At the hospitals, we use best practices, data driven information and guidelines from the CDC to keep our employees & patients safe as possible. Laura has been a tireless advocate for the safety of our citizens, using the same guidelines the hospital has been asking everyone to follow. She stands with the healthcare workers as we deal with the infections of people not wearing masks and social distancing. I'm sorry I can't say the same for certain other council members, but they're not targets of vitriol and hate.

The outlandish toxicity hurled at Laura in the last year is childish, unprofessional, and unbecoming of a supposedly welcoming, family-friendly city.

This meeting shows the council turning their backs on healthcare workers who deal with our population's failure to follow simple, scientific guidelines. I support Laura, thank you.

Name: Karen Koupal

Address Rapid City SD 5770

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. She is doing a great job and works tirelessly for the people of Rapid City in a compassionate and thoughtful way.



Name: Stardust Red Bow

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Staff Direction

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is a compassionate and strong leader. Sharing information regarding the steps businesses are taking to reduce the spread of COVID-19 is a public service. This information may be used by everyone to make informed decisions regarding where and how (in person, delivery, curbside, etc.) to conduct their business. It does not tell people to boycott any businesses. There are those who prefer to shop in places with mask requirements, & those who prefer places that do not require masks. Both sides may use the list to determine which businesses they want to support or avoid as they see fit. Although Ms. Armstrong did not create the list, kudos to her for supporting it.

Name: Robert Prann

Address:

Rapid City, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I appreciate the effort Laura has put forth for those that are concerned for their health and safety during this unprecedented pandemic. I hope she is able to maintain her position on the council.

Name: Matt Fitting

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I have known Laura for 15 years. Our kids grew up together, and I worked on several events with her over the years. She pours her heart into everything she does, and operates with the utmost integrity. These charges against her seem vindictive, made by people who don't agree with her. That is wrong!

Name: Laurie Robinson

Address: rapid city SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is a valuable member of the city council and I appreciate her support of CDC recommendations in the face of anti-science behavior from other council members and maniacal citizens.

Name: Ann Trucano

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Dear City Council:

I strongly support Laura Armstrong. I had the privilege of serving with Laura on the Minniluzihan Senior Citizen Center board, and I know her strong attributes: a willingness to listen to concerns of this community; a strong sense that we must come together to solve problems; and a passionate commitment to giving to one another so all benefit as citizens of our city. Laura was always prepared, was an effective liaison between the City Council and our center's community, and had ideas that promoted our mission. Her ability to listen and respond to others was SO appreciated, and we took her ideas and went with them! Laura's positive nature is contagious--and we all benefit from her efforts.

Laura is a UNITER, not a divider, and has shown her love for our city and its citizens by the countless hours she spends on our behalf. I urge this council to commend Laura for her diligence to us all.

Name: Rebecca Stucke

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong exhibited no abuse of power in her actions and simply assisted in keeping our community safe, which is not a crime. I appreciate her attempt to help keep us safe and supported through the page Caring Businesses of Rapid City.

Name: Mark Stucke

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Armstrong

Comment:

I support what Council President Laura Armstrong has done with the "Caring Businesses of Rapid City" Facebook page she is actually associated with. It has nothing to do with politics and everything to do with community health and safety. The page itself helps me feel safer when I go out.

It is not oppressive, an abuse of power, or a crime to try to help keep the community safe. The claims made against her are untrue and unsupported by fact.

As my Ward 5 Council member, Laura has my full support.

Name: Carrie Lewis

Address:

Rapid city, sd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

She lead the Facebook siege to bash the businesses during Covid. My business for one was one that maybe was hurt because I wasnt on the list. Why? Am I not Safe enough for her to visit? She does not have the best interest for business.



Name: Isaac Sione Langi

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing this comment in support of councilwoman Laura Armstrong. My significant other has to be extra safe when out and about during this pandemic because of her "at risk" health status. The page Laura is attached to (Caring Businesses of Rapid City) has been really helpful in offering us options that make myself, and especially my partner, feel and be safe. We are grateful for her and the steps she has taken to try and keep our city safe and healthy.

Name: Danielle Larson

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong. I appreciate the lawful steps she has taken to help inform citizens about which businesses in the area are willfully following CDC guidelines. I feel safer because of this. The notion that Laura is seeking to blacklist businesses in the community is unequivocally false. If the council does not let Laura finish out her term, the members are simply validating misinformation and perpetuating its spread.

Name: Kimberly Lathe Greager

Address: Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am commenting to show my support for Laura Armstrong. I have been following all the local happenings since Covid hit SD last year. It has come to the public's attention that Ms. Armstrong was not the creator of a spreadsheet that was used to create a list of safe businesses in Rapid City. I find it outrageous that a council member's position is being threatened because people in this city want to know what businesses are safe to patron. We are in the midst of a global pandemic and I urge you all to redirect your energies into more productive actions that actually serve this community.

Name: Avery Friedt

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

This comment is in support of Laura Armstrong. The complaints against her are clearly an organized attack run by a hateful group (Citizens for Liberty). This whole investigation is an absolute waste of time, effort, and money. I am disappointed in my fellow community members who blindly wrote these complaints and I am even more disappointed in the two other City Council members who are associated with CFL - it is clear that there are some corrupt ties there. To remove Laura from the City Council is a disservice to all. Her "crime" is simply caring for our community. It will be truly unfortunate if her "crime" costs her her seat on the council. If that be the case though, it sure says more about our corrupt city than it does her.

Name: Bobbi Jean Jarvinen

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing in support of Laura Armstrong and the work she has done over the last several months to not only protect the well-being of those around her, but also the citizenry of Rapid City. She has been vocal and steadfast in following the safe guidelines issued by the CDC, she has supported local healthcare organizations and their caregivers, she has been a good steward in ensuring the citizenry has the information they need to make choices that are in the best interest of their own individual health.

The current attacks on her character are unwarranted and should not be endorsed in any manner. They should be ignored, in the same way many of those bringing forward comments ignored my well-being and those of my fellow citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the comments from a grateful citizen. Well done Laura Armstrong.

Name: Barbara Jane Dunfee

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: code of conduct complaint against Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Governor Noem has stated we should take personal responsibility, yet when one of our city council members has tried to make it easier for the people of our community to do so, citizens of our city (the same ones who tend to decry cancel culture and are often the first to bring up freedom of speech) are calling for her removal from government. This makes no sense, and I have supported Ms. Armstrong in the past and will be happy to vote for her again because she represents me well on the city council. It upsets me that a small but vocal part of the city population is trying to silence my views by removing my city council representative.

Name: Shelly Tupper

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Staff Direction

Comment:

I am writing today in support of Alderwoman Laura Armstrong. She is a true example of a public servant. She puts the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community first, just as every council member should. She leads by example and follows the CDC guidelines that our own South Dakota Department of Health supports. The following information comes directly from our department of health website.

The South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) continues to respond to the emergence of the novel coronavirus. We are working with the CDC and our healthcare partners across the state to protect South Dakotans from COVID-19.

Three Important Ways to Slow the Spread

Wear a mask to protect yourself and others and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others who don't live with you.

Avoid crowds. The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.

Name: Jay Davis

Address:

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has served our city with diligence and integrity. It is very unfortunate that she has been singled out for discipline, especially on the mask issue. I happen to agree with her stand on masks, but even if I did not, all she is guilty of is expressing her opinion, and providing a list of businesses that have been responsible during this crisis.



Name: Toni Diamond

Address:

Rapid City, 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

As a resident of Rapid City I would like to take the time to thank Laura Armstrong for the work she is doing on behalf of the people who reside in Rapid City. Her response to the pandemic that has plagued our country is commendable. Her remarks about local businesses that are taking recommended steps to insure the safety is greatly appreciated. I personally want to thank her for the courageous stand.

Name: Jenn Buell

Address:

Rapid City 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I'm writing to support Laura Armstrong for helping inform our community about the businesses following CDC guidelines during a pandemic. I've been part of this group since early on and at no time did it create or allow a "naughty list" of businesses not following guidelines. This is a witch hunt with no basis in fact. Please dismiss it as such.

Name: Deb Lux

Address: Black Hawk

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong is a committed leader concerned for the health of her community! Her support of wearing masks in public to protect our citizens is commendable and shows strong leadership.

The Center for Disease Control now requires wearing masks on all public transportation and South Dakota is number 1 in the U.S. for Covid deaths and infections. These facts alone should be enough for a mask mandate in Rapid City and the state.

Laura is willing to take a stand for what she believes to be the best for all in the community. She should be applauded and honored for her commitment. She is a consistently strong leader who is committed to all citizens. We need her strong voice and committed leadership for Rapid City>

Thank you.

Name: Mary Gustke

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I feel Rapid City is very fortunate to have Laura serving our community. I greatly appreciate her efforts to help us stay as safe as possible during this pandemic. I have known her for approximately 10 years back when she offered yoga classes to staff at Regional Hospital. She also offered free classes to disabled individuals. Her heart is as big as they get. She truly cares and I trust her. People do not take this virus seriously. We need help from our leaders.

Name: Judy Frie

Address:

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Laura Armstron

Comment:

I would like to add my voice of support for Laura Armstrong. I have chronic bronchitis and asthma, and getting Covid-19 would be extremely serious for me. I truly appreciated a list of places where masks were required. I have gone very few places in the last year, but to know where was the safest for me was a blessing.

I didn't see it as an "OMG, avoid these places at all costs" as the people leading this charge seem to think, but as a place where those of us who are compromised could go.

I think it is a shame that this same group of individuals seem to target anything and everything that does not fit into their view of how the world should be. It's simple, if you don't want to go into places that don't require masks, just go. Here's a list that tells you. There is not a single reason in this groupthink that would require removal of someone.

Please do the right thing. Keep Laura Armstrong and let her do her job.

Name: Britton Vidal

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

As a health care worker that has been caring for COVID19 patients in the hospital since the beginning of this pandemic, I applaud Laura Armstrong for showing strength and courage to stand up for the well being of our citizens. Born and raised in Rapid City, I strongly supported the mask mandate for our community and Laura Armstrong was a voice of reason and logic that attempted to steer our city in the direction that would have allowed the community to follow public health measures in order to protect our citizens during a viral pandemic. Having businesses listed that require masking was the least that our city council could have done for our citizens to be educated on safe areas in our community that they could have shopped. I thank Laura Armstrong for being a voice of reason and having the courage to stand up for the rights of all citizens to be protected, educated and safe during these strange times.

Name: Michelle Bowman

Address:

Pierre SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong did this state and community a great service when it's other elected leaders failed. She (and everyone else who contributed to the list compiled of businesses following CDC guidelines) utilized her PERSONAL FREEDOM in a deadly pandemic to help stop the spread and keep vulnerable citizens safe. The city council members trying to censure her should be removed. If this continues she has a successful future lawsuit on her hands. If science deniers have the "right" to not wear masks (which endangers other citizens), then those who understand science have the right to share a list of safer businesses with one another. This is an appalling turn of events and you should be ashamed of this personal attack on Laura. Tread carefully, you're on the absolute wrong side of history here.

Name: anthony diehl md

Address:

rapid city. sd. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong in her attempts to identify which businesses are employing safety measures and which do not. Businesses that do not utilize masks risk the safety of their employees who likely do not have the option of working somewhere else. They risk the safety of their customers. Masks decrease transmission of covid, physicians and scientists have no doubt about this.

The best way to keep businesses open is to wear masks. Laura Armstrong should be commended. She is our strongest voice for reason and responsibility.



Name: Georgianna Rowland

Address:

Rapid City SS 47703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Armstrong

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong. We have known her for many years. She has always been honest and professional. Please don't let a pack of politically motivated and destructive people bully a good leader.

Name: Tina Heinbaugh

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

My comments in support of Council President Laura B. Armstrong, sent to our City Council for their Executive Session this evening:

I am appalled at the verbal abuse Alderwoman Laura Armstrong has been subjected to, all because she cares about the citizens of and visitors to Rapid City. COVID-19 is extremely real and Ms. Armstrong has been unfairly targeted for supporting medical guidelines from health professionals and the CDC. She deserves no censure or action of removal. If anything, Laura Armstrong deserves accolades for being an advocate for promoting community health safety during the pandemic.

Respectfully,

Tina Heinbaugh

Name: Holly Perli

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I live in Ward 3, but the aldermen from Ward 3 don't represent me. Laura, with her sensibilities, does. Let me first say that your decision on this topic should not be determined by the number of emails you receive. That is a false narrative and scapegoat excuse. It should be a judgment call of right and wrong. By promoting safe businesses, Laura spoke for me, and this does not deserve punishment. Thanks for getting back to the work of the people by leaving this made-up controversy behind.

Name: Marilyn Simon

Address:

Rapid City, add 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Laura Armstrong has provided consistently strong leadership. Her commitment to ALL citizens of Rapid City is evident in her willingness to listen to science, act upon facts, and bring forth a smile of kindness in the midst of heated challenges. Laura makes a significant contribution to our community as a health professional and as a representative for our community. The attacks launched against her are appalling. Wearing a mask, following CDC recommendations to keep our communities safe is not a political statement, although some disruptive individuals would lead you to believe it is. I have witnessed Laura's willingness to listen, learn and lead. I hope all will act in the best interest of our community and make a choice on the side of what is best for our citizens and support the strong leadership of Laura Armstrong. Thank you.

#IstandwithLauraArmstrong

Name: Deborah J Mitchell

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Support for Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am in full support of Council Member Laura Armstrong and all of the work she's done to guide our community through the Covid pandemic. Her stand on scientific fact and truth should in no way be censured.

Name: Robin Zephier

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City Council discussion related to Laura Armstrong, February 1, 2021

Comment:

Empathy. Know it. Show it. Give it. Live it. .... And it will come back to you. Help Heal the Circle of Life.

I support Laura Armstrong's call for a more humane manner and method of providing a fair truthful warning to those citizens who are actually caring and empathetic of their fellow citizen human beings' health and lives in the community. Her efforts should be recognized as empathetic, honorable and caring. This is something an elected official is expected to be concerned about, and to take action to allow for human beings to have their sovereign human right to breathe and to live, protected.

Every human has the free will granted by our Creator, and the conscious "choice" to go into a specific private business or not to do so.

I fully support Laura Armstrong. She has ethics and empathy. Please dismiss these undeserved allegations. Thank you.

Name: Jody Javersak

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I'm writing in support of Laura Armstrong.

As primary caregiver to an 88 year old, I certainly appreciate information on which businesses are focusing on health safety measures during the pandemic. I always try to buy local and this has made it possible for me to do so more safely.

Showing care and compassion for community members who are most at risk should be commended and I'm pretty shocked to find that some see wrongdoing here. This is not the Rapid City I grew up in.

I would love to show up in person to support the people in city government who I know have been doing their best to protect the health and safety of our citizens, but I can't take the risk of being in contact with the group that I know will show up maskless and not following CDC guidelines.

Name: Eric Steven Zimmer

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong Discussion

Comment:

Council President Armstrong is a capable, ethical leader who has demonstrated a level headed approach to the issues facing Rapid City time and time again. Please dismiss these ridiculous accusations against her immediately and get the council back to working on matters of substance.



Name: Brenna Lanoue

Address: Rapid City, SD, 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City Council Discussion Pertaining to Laura Armstrong on Feb 1, 2021

Comment:

Our community needs leaders like Laura Armstrong. Laura took action to inform our friends, family, and neighbors about where they could shop safely during the pandemic and where they could find businesses that aligned with their values. Laura exhibited leadership, compassion, and care for the community by providing a resource to facilitate the freedom to choose where one shops. I am asking that she be cleared of any accusations of wrongdoing. Business owners in Rapid City are free to choose whether or not they require masks, and it is not up to the council to protect these businesses from the negative consequences of their freely made choices. As a citizen of Rapid City, information on whether or not a business complies with CDC guidance to end this pandemic directly impacts my well-being and the well-being of my friends and family. This is vital information that the citizens of Rapid City deserve to know.

Name: Claudia Wieland-Randall

Address: Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

The Facebook page in question contains information about safety procedures in each establishment. People are free to take it or not. This is not a boycott of any business but a public service.

Name: Peg Seljeskog

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Executive Session

Comment:

I am appalled at the verbal abuse Alderwoman Laura Armstrong has been subjected to, all because she cares about the citizens of and visitors to Rapid City. COVID-19 is extremely real and Ms. Armstrong has been unfairly targeted for supporting medical guidelines from health professionals and the CDC. She deserves no censure or action of removal. If anything, Laura Armstrong deserves accolades for being an advocate for promoting community health safety during the pandemic.

I submit that City Hall could be served well with a sign, similar in verbiage to a sign at Monument Health, to be posted at the building entrance and door to the Council Chambers:

“Please take responsibility for the energy you bring into this space.

Your words matter. Your behaviors matter. Our citizens, elected officials and city employees matter.

Take a slow, deep breath and make sure your energy is in check before entering.”

Respectfully,

Peg Seljeskog

Name: Brandon Ecoffey

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I would like to thank Laura Armstrong for protecting the community from the bigoted racists from Citizens for Liberty. And the remaining racists on the council including Greg Strommen. And the big mouths unprofessional sexists like Bill Evans.

Name: Eltina Three Stars

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: City Council discussion related to Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I am writing in support for the leadership that City Councilwoman Laura Armstrong has demonstrated. Although I do not know Mrs. Armstrong personally, it is imperative to have someone who will speak up for others and sometimes go against the masses. Working in public health, I have had Covid-19 and work directly with those who are affected by this pandemic. It is important that individuals follow the recommended CDC guidelines in order to get this virus under control. I feel that Laura only had good intentions when she supported creating a list of Rapid City businesses that required face masks and social distancing. To persecute her for educating us and giving us options should be allowed not oppressed. In the end, we all have the freedom of choice to stay home or to shop in a business who proudly supports mask/no masks. Remember to not shoot the messenger! Thank you!

Name: Carla Georgina Douglas

Address:

Rapid City, SD, 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong, nothing she has been accused of is nor should be penalized for trying to protect the public she was sworn to be a steward of. The list of businesses she had posted was only to share with others, if you decide to cater to an unsafe business, be aware of your Healthcare. There was no slander nor was there any malicious intent to do any damage to said businesses listed. It is bad enough that the city council as a whole couldn't pass a mandated mask wearing ordinance because of being threatened by their constituents and having their personal property vandalized. No arrests were made, yet, this council and especially the Mayor Steve Allender made sure unarmed Natives were arrested for only wanting to shelter their relatives. Laura Armstrong just wanted to make sure her constituents are safe.

Name: Lynn Taylor Rick

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: executive session regarding Laura Armstrong.

Comment:

I support Laura Armstrong in her efforts to keep her community healthy by following CDC and other expert guidelines on face masks, social distancing and other safety protocols. I appreciated social media pages that identify businesses who follow safety protocol. Laura at no time ridiculed businesses that didn't follow the guidelines. In fact she was adamant that conversations remain focused on those businesses that followed guidelines and avoid calling out businesses that did not.

Laura has remained professional and positive during this difficult time. She has followed the guidelines of experts rather than people's personal feelings on safety measures. I hope the Council will support its fellow member and uphold her right to share her support of CDC guidelines in public spaces and through social media. Laura works hard for the citizens of Rapid City and should not be punished for perceived slights made while doing her job.

Name: Lorna Groethe

Address:

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Council Member

Comment:

I will not support anyone who puts a small business on a list of shame. Laura Armstrong is not a good example of representing the interests of their people. Wrong to go around and ask people to go to bat for her when she doesn't for the people who voted her in.



Name: Christine Jones

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Laura Armstrong

Comment:

Dear City Council,

I'd like you to know that I trust Laura Armstrong to provide good leadership for our city. She has always replied immediately to my concerns. She is very responsive and responsible. It bothers me a great deal that she is being reviled. It is a tough time to be a politician because of the incivility present in our community. I ask you to support each other in your civic duty.

With respect, Christine Jones

Name: Kathy McLaughlin

Address:

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Discussion related to Laura Armstrong (February 1, 2021)

Comment:

I fully support Laura Armstrong on City Council. She is a phenomenal leader with impeccable and admirable ethics. She continues to create an atmosphere where the community's wellbeing and health are the epitome of her decisions. I humbly ask that she continue her critical progress within the city by dismissing these allegations. She is an influential and prominent leader that we need. Thank you