



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

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January 4, 2022

Dear Council Members:

On August 19, 2021, I wrote to you and explained the difficulties we've been having with our approach to homelessness. Further, I articulated the workload associated with homelessness and how it was overburdening our police and fire departments.

At that time, I provided you with a plan outlining a new approach to homelessness. In a nutshell, this consists of securing contracts for service with four nonprofit organizations, in addition to hiring a human services coordinator.

Late last year, you approved an agreement with Journey On, a street-level outreach program. So far, the early results are promising. Journey On has responded to 117 calls for service over the past 4 weeks. This essentially represents 16% of all the calls for service related to public intoxication. These 117 calls do not include their proactive outreach efforts in areas where the homeless congregate.

Now, and the reason for this memo, is what's coming on the next legal and finance and City Council agendas: You will see a proposed contract between the City of Rapid City and Volunteers of America (VOA). This contract is part of the original plan I provided last August.

VOA will be helping with emergency housing placement for individuals that are service ready, in other words the *unwilling homeless*, and they will provide case management to those individuals. VOA will conduct homeless street outreach, and ensure coordination between homeless services and an emergency housing component. There are more details in the contract itself. In short, the VOA contract is an important part of the new approach to homelessness.

The contract is for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the calendar year 2022. This is the amount you approved in the 2022 budget.

Also, we expect two more contracts in the coming weeks: Both are funded in the 2022 budget as well.

If you have questions about this contract please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Allender
Mayor



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