

## **TikTok Resolution Background**

As the City Council considers a resolution prohibiting TikTok on city devices (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) and city network(s), as well as blocking/removing any city-managed accounts, I wanted to provide some background to share why this is being proposed.

### **What's the problem?**

- The FBI recently warned TikTok poses a national security risk and could be used to control devices and influence Americans. ([link 1](#))
- According to a recent column in the Washington Post, “TikTok is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. This is not a state-owned enterprise, but in China, no company is truly private. Under the country’s 2017 National Intelligence Law, all citizens and businesses are required to assist in intelligence work, which includes sharing data.” ([link 2](#))
- In addition, Congressman Dusty Johnson recently introduced legislation to “Block the Tok” at the federal level. ([link 3](#))
- This follows concerns from other entities and officials. ([link 4](#))

### **Why should the city take action?**

- This action is not without merit and is based on the recent action taken by the state.
- On November 29, 2022, the State of South Dakota, through [Governor Noem's Executive Order](#), prohibited the TikTok application on state-issued devices and state networks and removed state-managed accounts. ([link 5](#))
- The state's ban does not apply to local governments, but the state’s strong action sent a signal to local governing authorities to explore similar actions.

### **How did this get on the City Council agenda?**

- After the announcement of the Governor’s executive order, I reached out to her office and scheduled a meeting to further discuss the matter.
- Following that meeting, I concluded it would be wise of Rapid City to consider a similar measure and requested the City Attorney’s office place it on the agenda for consideration. I copied all members of the City Council and the Mayor’s office to ensure everyone was looped in.

- Before asking for the City Attorney's office to do the legwork of drafting the resolution, I wanted to ensure the Council agreed. That is why it's presented on the agenda the way it is.

### **Bottom line**

- I believe it is in the best interest of the City of Rapid City and our citizens to take action. It may not change the world, but it could help our corner of the world.
- The threat is real and concerning. Caution flags have been waved by multiple government entities regarding TikTok, and now official action has been taken by the state of South Dakota.
- I respectfully ask the City Council to support drafting the resolution and vote to approve it.

Thank you,

Jason Salamun  
City Councilman, Ward 3  
City of Rapid City

### **Link References**

1. [https://rapidcityjournal.com/ap/national/fbi-raises-security-concerns-about-tiktok/article\\_e5120b96-e4bb-52e3-8365-0252d45ea0de.html](https://rapidcityjournal.com/ap/national/fbi-raises-security-concerns-about-tiktok/article_e5120b96-e4bb-52e3-8365-0252d45ea0de.html)
2. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/11/10/marco-rubio-ban-tiktok-america-china-mike-gallagher/>
3. <https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/politics/2022/09/06/johnson-pens-bill-block-download-tiktok-government-devices/8001480001/>
4. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/experts-ramp-up-tiktok-warnings-after-top-dem-admits-trump-right-chinese-spying-app>
5. [https://governor.sd.gov/doc/GovNoem-EO\\_2022-10.pdf](https://governor.sd.gov/doc/GovNoem-EO_2022-10.pdf)

###