



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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November 18, 2016

Rapid City Common Council
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: Vision/Mission Statement
Rapid City, South Dakota

Dear Council Members:

I am aware that the Council recently held two meetings during which time a new City Council mission statement, vision statement and core values were drafted. I'm also aware that this item is being placed on the council meeting agenda for discussion and approval.

When I found out about this I made an inquiry as to whether or not it should be a City Council mission statement or a City mission statement.

Each City department has its own mission statement. I believe this is appropriate because the Fire Department has a mission specifically to their service as does the Police Department, Parks Department, Public Works Department, and so on. I believe the City Council is different from a City department. As I think about it, I don't know what could be in the City Council's mission statement that would not be appropriate for a citywide mission statement. You see, the City of Rapid City has no mission statement.

I remember a time when we went through a process to finalize a City mission statement but for at least the last few years the only one to be found related to City administration was a 1990's version of a City Council mission statement.

I say all of that just to say this: The City Council is the City of Rapid City. The 10 representatives on Council represent each and every citizen of Rapid City. You are the policy makers who are creating and implementing policy affecting our residents and visitors. I am very pleased that you have adopted – by practice – the Comprehensive Plan, including our Core Values. My compliments to you all.

I am writing only to suggest you take a little more time and perhaps modify the work you've done and consider it to be on behalf of, and to the benefit of, the entire community, rather than the City Council group. I will not raise any questions at the council meeting, as I do not intend to interfere with this process.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Steve Allender, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota