

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
IN WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA**

WHEREAS, South Dakota is experiencing a mental health crisis. South Dakota is one of five states where state law says people experiencing a mental health crisis can be held in a correctional facility; and

WHEREAS, mental illness and substance-use disorders are treatable health conditions; but too often people in crisis end up at an emergency room or in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the organizations that deal with this issue in the City of Rapid City strongly recommend that the State of South Dakota provide additional resources to accomplish the goal of establishing additional mental health services in Western South Dakota to include consideration of a second Human Services Center; and

WHEREAS, Western South Dakota would benefit from additional services that could provide a continuum of care for people in need of mental health services that would be less costly than jails, emergency rooms, or traveling outside of the county for services; and

WHEREAS, the current Human Services Center located in Yankton is a significant geographic barrier for anyone needing services who is from West River as it removes them from their core support system and familiar setting; and

WHEREAS, additional mental health services in Western South Dakota would fill significant gaps in care, location, resources, and services available for the safety and appropriate treatment for persons suffering from mental health issues; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Rapid City supports the efforts to establish additional mental health services including consideration of a second Human Services Center in Western South Dakota.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2018.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer
(seal)