



March 30, 2004

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

Mr. Virgil D. Roskam
3200 Elk Vale Road
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mr. Roskam:

On March 25 I had the opportunity to listen to the concerns you expressed to the City of Rapid City Planning Commission in regard to the proposed zoning of property along Elk Vale Road and your concerns about the possibility of having a correctional facility constructed in this area.

The department understands and respects your opinion on this matter. You are not alone in that there are very few people who initially are open to the idea of having a correctional facility constructed and/or located in their neighborhood. Unfortunately, the number of people being incarcerated in South Dakota continues to rise, and with that comes the need for space in which to house the rising number of inmates.

The Department of Corrections has been involved in a two-year legislative process for the authorization and funding to construct additional facilities in which to house inmates. Part of the department's overall construction plan is to locate a minimum security housing unit in or near Rapid City. The reason for Rapid City is that more inmates are sentenced from Pennington County (approximately 23% of the entire inmate population) than any other county in South Dakota. Because of the high number of offenders who come from the Rapid City area, the need exists for a housing unit in Rapid City, in particular one that assists offenders in successful transition. Of the current inmates in Rapid City, most are serving time for DUI or drug offenses, all are within 2 years of release and most all of the inmates are already working in the community.

I understand your concerns may be many at this time. However, I can assure you that if a correctional facility is constructed along Elk Vale Road, the facility will be well maintained and safely managed. The Department of Corrections takes great pride in having its facilities maintained to where they are not an eyesore to the community. More importantly though, the department is dedicated to provide the necessary security to assure the safety of the community.

If at any time you or any of your neighbors has questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact me. I will be happy to visit with you. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Darwin Weeldreyer
Director of Community Service

Cc: Rapid City Planning Commission Members

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APR 12 2004

**Rapid City Growth
Management Department**



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3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

Ms. Judy Caron
4498 Country Road
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Ms. Caron:

On March 25 I had the opportunity to listen to the concerns you expressed to the City of Rapid City Planning Commission in regard to the proposed zoning of property along Elk Vale Road and your concerns about the possibility of having a correctional facility constructed in this area.

The department understands and respects your opinion on this matter. You are not alone in that there are very few people who initially are open to the idea of having a correctional facility constructed and/or located in their neighborhood. Unfortunately, the number of people being incarcerated in South Dakota continues to rise, and with that comes the need for space in which to house the rising number of inmates.

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Sincerely,

Darwin Weeldreyer
Director of Community Service

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