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DEC 14 2004

December 12, 2004

MAYOR'S OFFICE

TO: MAYOR JIM SHAW
COUNCIL MEMBERS

In the early 1960's when the population of Rapid City was much smaller than today and the number of cars traveling on Fifth Street was significantly less, there WAS a traffic signal at Fifth and Franklin. My kids had to cross at this intersection in order to attend Wilson School. Fifth Street was reconstructed and made into 4 lanes and the traffic signal disappeared - who knows why it wasn't reinstalled.

In October 13, 1992 in the Public Works Committee Minutes, the Public Works Director explained that staff recently conducted a citywide traffic signal **STUDY**. Twenty-one sites were prioritized using the number of accidents and severity of the accidents, daily traffic count, pedestrian activity counts, and warrants according to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Handbook.

"City of Rapid City Signal Program

5th & St. Cloud - 16,899 daily traffic count
St. Patrick & Elm - 12,183 daily traffic count"

July 6, 1993 a **Resolution** signed by Mayor McLaughlin and Richard Wahlstrom, the Finance Officer for

"Resolution creating projects for installation of **permanent traffic signals** at the following locations:

LOCATION	PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR INSTALLATION
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...

Fifth Street & Meade	1997
Soo San Drive & Range Road	1998"

October 1997 -a memo prepared by the City Traffic Engineer prepared for the Rapid City Public Works Committee "1997 Traffic Signal Warrant Study" reports

"...If the City is going to go through the process of signaling an intersection we want to make sure that the circumstances that precipitate the signal are long term."

With Fifth Street now connected to Catron Boulevard, the traffic numbers on Fifth Street will increase dramatically. Unless you install a light at Fifth and Franklin to control the speed of traffic, you will find that Fifth Street between St. Patrick and Columbus Street will become a race track!

You don't have to spend \$150,00 plus to install a traffic signal - all you need are poles and lights such as the ones installed on Fifth and Meade. These "temporary" lights have been in use for over 10 years - they may not look "pretty" - but you know what - they **WORK** and it certainly helps to keep our children and other citizens as safe as possible. Who knows - the light may save the life of your child or grandchild.

PLEASE - - no more studies regarding the traffic problems - you have studied it to death for YEARS and still nothing has been done. There sure wasn't much study done when the Council installed a light at Cathedral Drive and Valley View High Rise - - why?? Why waste the time of studies when you don't act upon the results presented to you by your staff.

Funds are available somewhere. On the new Fifth Street extension between Minnesota and Catron Boulevard, I counted 30 fancy, new and I am sure, very expensive, street lights were installed - plus sidewalks on both sides of the street. (I always thought sidewalks were the responsibility of the property owners). If we can spend my tax dollars just for street lights and sidewalks on as yet an undeveloped area - surely we can come up with the money for a traffic signal at Fifth and Franklin.

It is obvious that a light is needed at Fifth and Franklin - **PLEASE** just install the light to protect our citizens and eliminate the potential race track.

Respectfully,



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