



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Legal & Finance Committee  
FROM: Barbara Garcia, Community Development Specialist  
DATE: January 10, 2007  
RE: Authorize Mayor to Sign Letter of Intent to Apply for Safe Haven Grant through the US Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women As the Local Government Co-applicant with WAVI

WAVI has submitted a request for the City of Rapid City to participate as the Local Government Co-applicant on a Safe Haven grant application to the US Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. A local government must submit the application in partnership with a non-profit agency providing services to victims of domestic violence.

Safe Havens is a Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program that provides opportunities for communities to support the supervised visitation and safe exchange of children in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. Studies show that the risk of violence is often greater for victims of domestic violence and their children after separation from an abusive situation. Batterers often use visitation and exchange of children as an opportunity to inflict additional emotional, physical, and/or psychological abuse on victims and their children.

WAVI has been providing a Safe Haven's program called Commonground Visitation and Exchange Services in our community since 1998, in partnership with the court system, but this is their first request for Federal funds to expand and help cover the costs of the program.

The City would be responsible for program oversight, funding draws and disbursement, reporting, file maintenance and audits. WAVI would be responsible for grant writing, program development, services delivery, and reporting to the City. WAVI would like to apply for grant funds for a three (3) year program, in the amount of \$400,000. Administrative fees for the City oversight and administration of the program would be included in the grant request. Administrative oversight and audit requirements of this type of program by the Finance Department would be labor



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intensive and there would be audit costs. The City may be required to front the funds to WAVI and be reimbursed after the fact, which would require funds to be set aside that were not budgeted in the FY 2007 City Budget.

There is a very short application window for this grant. Notification of Grant Availability was posted on December 21, 2006. A non-binding letter of intent to the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) must be submitted before January 23, 2007. The actual grant application must be submitted no later than February 13, 2007.

Problems resulting from domestic violence are costly to the community and the opportunity to leverage additional federal funds to address local issues and support WAVI's efforts to provide this type of service to victims of domestic violence is worth pursuing, if the additional City administrative costs are covered through the grant.

If Council is interested in supporting this effort, Council could elect to submit the non-binding letter of intent, to leave open the option for submitting an application, and direct staff to review the full grant application prior to the next Legal and Finance and City Council meetings. If the terms and costs are not acceptable, Council could reject the request at that time.

**Staff Recommendation** is to approve the Mayor to sign the non-binding letter of intent for grant application and for the Finance Officer to submit the letter of intent. Staff also recommends that Council require WAVI to submit a copy of the full grant application to the City no later than January 23, 2007 for staff review by the Finance Department, Community Development Specialist and the City Attorney's office prior to review by the City Legal and Finance Committee at the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.