

January 13, 2010

City of Rapid City

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Legal and Finance:

Lemmon Ave "Neighborhood of Choice Project" background:

The Lemmon Avenue property is a vacant and blighted house located in North Rapid City using Neighborhood Stabilization funds from the government stimulus program. NeighborWorks® Dakota Home Resources has demolished the structure and plans to landscape the property into green space for the purpose of a community garden for the neighborhood.

NeighborWorks® Dakota Home Resources has been working with the residents of Lemmon Avenue to establish a Neighborhood of Choice over the past eight months. Originally asked by the Rapid City Police Department to bring our services to this neighborhood, we have partnered with the City of Rapid City, its officials, and other corporations and nonprofits to make the revitalization of Lemmon Avenue a reality. The newly organized block club is quickly addressing the needs of their neighborhood. The block club recruited volunteers and painted a house on Lemmon Avenue for the first "Paint the Town" Rapid City. Currently, the residents are working on many important concepts that will make this neighborhood stronger and more united. The residents are also working hard to come up with new ideas to decrease crime including improved lighting and fencing options. NeighborWorks® Dakota Home Resources has also partnered with Black Hills Power for a winterization project where each year we help three deserving homeowners winterize their homes. For example, we help insulate windows, doors, and water heaters to conserve on the heating costs for the residents.

NeighborWorks® Dakota Home Resources selected to create a "Neighborhood of Choice" in the Lemmon Avenue neighborhood to help lower crime by helping establish community involvement and community pride. We plan to help the residents transform this neighborhood from its current state, into a neighborhood that workforce families **choose** to live in. At the present time, the neighborhood has had many problems with crime and gang related activity. The purpose of the Neighborhood of Choice is to create opportunities for the residents. NeighborWorks® Dakota Home Resources provides access to resources including the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to help in building a more sustainable neighborhood safe for families to live in.

NeighborWorks® Dakota Home Resources is respectfully requesting the City of Rapid City to accept the deed for the land on 706 Lemmon Ave for public use, and in turn deed the property on 820 Lemmon to NeighborWorks® Dakota Home Resources, by doing so we can then demolish the current blighted structure, and rebuild a single family home

above the flood plain. The City of Rapid City would be agreeing to comply with the NSP restrictions and will not be able to rebuild a home on 706 Lemmon Ave for at least the fifteen year restriction timeframe.