



Dear Mayor and Council,

Summer Nights is requesting that the City allow us to expand our weekly event to include a portion of Main Street. While we recognize this may inconvenience some, we have given the matter a lot of consideration and feel that expansion on to Main Street is necessary for the continued success of our event. We also feel the expansion will further our mission of revitalizing downtown Rapid City. The event has continued to grow year after year. Last year we estimate our growth at approximately 100 %. By the end of last summer, there were multiple nights that 7th Street was virtually filled to capacity and was extremely crowded. While we do not expect 100% growth again this year, it will be difficult to contain even a small amount of growth if the event remains tied solely to 7th Street. To date there have been virtually no problems with disruly or disruptive people, but we are concerned that such problems may occur if the event becomes more crowded. We also worry about the ability of emergency personnel to respond to problems or medical emergencies if the street and sidewalks are as crowded as they were last year. Another issue with our previous set up is the fact that the kid's activities were separated from the main event area by a busy street. This layout isolated the kid's area and made it feel as though it were a separate event. It also poses some safety concerns with large numbers of parents and children moving across a busy street as well as concerns for our set up and cleanup crews. If our current proposal is approved the kids area would be adjacent to the event on Main Street. Not only do we think this would be safer, it would help to tie the kid's area to the rest of the event thus making it more family friendly.

In making the request, we also have an eye to the future. Main Street Square will be up and running next year and it is our desire to move the event in that direction. It is our goal, that our expansion and move to Main Street will contribute to the success of Main Street Square when it is completed. Combined with the need for extra space, and the desire to tie the kid's area in with the rest of the event, we feel this is the best time to expand.

In order to minimize the impact caused by the closure of Main Street, we have been working closely with City Staff. We would like to thank Pete Ragnone from the Police Dept., Robert Ellis and John Less from the Public Works Dept., Chief Mike Maltaverne of the Fire Dept. and Rich Sagen from Rapid Transit for working with us to come up with a traffic plan which we can implement if our request is approved. Based on these discussions, we will be able to implement a street closure which disrupts City operations as little as possible and which meets the standards required for street closures. Summer Nights is willing to pay for the cost of setting



up and taking down the barricades and cones which are required to implement the traffic plan. We have agreed to retain Traffic Services Co., a local company which provides traffic control, to provide setup and take down of the road closure in a manner consistent with the traffic plan should our request be approved.

We sincerely appreciate the assistance and support we have received from the City over the years. We could not have enjoyed the success we have experienced without your help. We hope that you are able to support our request in order to ensure Summer Night's continued growth and ongoing success. We are committed to providing a safer environment for the thousands of citizens who patronize us each Thursday night and need your support to accomplish this goal. While the additional street closure may inconvenience some, we are confident most people will learn to adjust their routes after the first few Thursdays. It is our belief that any inconvenience to traffic is far outweighed by the benefits that the continued success and growth of Summer Nights brings to Rapid City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra D. Schwan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sandra D. Schwan
Pres. Rapid City Summer Nights
605-343-1823