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MAYOR'S OFFICE

August 1, 2013

To the Rapid City Council members

Re: Native American Sculpture Garden

Dear Mayor Kooiker and council members;

My name is Judy Dalton, a great-granddaughter of James Halley II, who was one of the founding fathers of Rapid City and the namesake of Halley Park in Rapid City.

When my family heard about the plans for the Native American Sculpture Garden to be placed in Halley Park, we immediately had concerns, not about the display, but the safety issues involved.

The Halley family is no stranger to Native Americans and their traditions. Growing up in Keystone, we have lived among the Lakota which has instilled a pride and admiration for their heritage and traditions.

I think the Native Americans have been treated unfairly in many ways which has resulted in hardships and negative impressions by others. When I learned about the Native Americans that were to be honored, Charles Eastman, Black Elk, Oscar Howe and Vine Deloria, I thought it was a great idea and a way to help restore respect for Native Americans.

My concerns, which echo those of my relatives and many residents of Rapid City is the huge safety issues with having this sculpture garden within Halley Park. Because the park lies between two very busy city streets, it would be a very dangerous place and just a matter of time before a tragic accident occurs. The issue of a crosswalk is an even more hazardous idea.

I believe the Native American Sculpture Garden is a much needed project, to honor Native Americans who have been such positive role models and to educate everyone about them. I would like to see the display in Memorial Park, near the Journey Museum, or another area that would ensure safety for all who gather there.

I don't want Halley Park to be known for tragic accidents, but for a beautiful part of Rapid City, with its beautiful rose gardens that can be observed and enjoyed by people as they drive by. I think my great-grandfather would agree with me.

I hope you will take this into consideration in helping you reach your decision.

Sincerely,



Judy (Halley) Dalton