

## Just the Facts

1. 2009 Rapid City removed the precious metal & gem ordinance at the behest of 1 person to an alderman(per Mayor Kookier). During this process, to the best of my knowledge, no licensed dealer was consulted, myself included.

2. No regulation was lifted from 2<sup>nd</sup> hand or pawn shops. This cost MY business a loss of \$100,000 per year. Try operating a business with \$100,000 less per year, my employees and I have had to.

3. The Clock Shop, Dakota Coin, and others went into the second hand business without licenses, and continue to operate as such.

4. Rapid City Police department refuses to enforce EXISTING second hand laws. I was informed they were told to leave “those people” alone.

5. Loss of business to the regulated pawnshops was in the millions (according to their own advertisements). (NO ONE CARES)

6. Proposed new ordinance will require pictures of jewelry taken in on pawn at an increased cost of approximately \$20,000 per year for my shop. The cost of taking current information required by PD is \$150,000 per year. This translates to approximately \$6000 cost to me and my customers for every 1 not yet proven crime.

7. Number of jewelry items from my store involved in crime so far this year - 0. Total number of transactions with police involvement - 30. Now Rapid City PD wants to say jewelry is a theft problem. The illegal jewelry activity was increased due to deregulation and exploitive business practices by profiteers who didn't care.(and PD says I don't ask enough questions of my customers)

8. Chief Allender states there were 3406 thefts reported, and many that were not. Combine all the major pawn shops, and less than 200 items were involved in crime. **WE ARE NOT THE PROBLEM!!**

9. Information we provide PD, and our efforts, help solve crimes...not create them.

## Open Letter to Rapid City Council Members

3 ½ years ago, a police detective said to me that deregulating gold was a disaster. Fewer gold theft crimes were being solved, because everything was being melted there was no evidence for them to work with. I am sure that this fact was known, all the way to the upper echelons of the police department.

3 years ago, when the Clock Shop and Dakota Coin started reselling used gold jewelry, I went to PD and begged for them to enforce the second hand laws. I was told to mind my own business, and that they had been instructed to leave the “downtown people” alone.

I have continually kept making that same request, and finally this year Ryan Soye said he was inclined to agree with me and he would take it to his boss. Second hand laws would have at least let the police department see the resold gold. I do not know if the second hand violations will ever be enforced, it seems that downtown has a guardian angel.

My point in all of this being, if solving gold jewelry theft crimes was really an important thing, then why did we wait 4 years to start worrying about it? Why do we want pictures from where the stolen gold isn't? Are you accomplishing something, or just avoiding talking about the real problem?

It's a shell game, gold...gold...whose got the gold? Or should I say the stolen gold? Well it sure isn't the pawnshops. The city put them out of the gold business when they deregulated the precious metals for everyone EXCEPT pawnshops. Sure we still get some loans on jewelry, but almost none of that is stolen.

It's like some big mystery, where or where could that stolen gold be? Perhaps regulated second hand stores? Nope, none there. Maybe the title loan places have it? Nope, not there. Maybe the pawnshops? Nope, none there.

Well there is that one guy who advertises over \$10 million in gold bought in the last 4 years, with no paperwork or Id needed.

Well I guess we will never be able to figure it out. Let's just make everyone take pictures, maybe that will help the police department.

Come on guys, plug the hole and stop all of this unneeded money, work and hardship on everyone.

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Dear Council members,

At the August 14<sup>th</sup> legal and finance committee meeting, Mr. Wright made a statement after public comments were closed about telling one ring from another.

Let me assure you that Landstrums, Stampers and other manufacturers do NOT make one of a kind for full scale production, and in most cases there are rings made from each manufacturer so similar, the only way to distinguish them is by their company trademark. Possibly 1 out of 1000 rings are custom design, but for the most part thousands of each ring are the norm.

Pd takes a loss report from a crime victim, and most of the time they get a description, not a picture, and even if they do get a picture, I don't believe that leads online automatically compares pictures. The only time a picture will be of use is after they have found the ring, and ask the victim if it looks like a picture of their missing ring. Only the court system can establish ownership.

If the picture requirement is just jewelry, the cost to my business will be \$20,000 per year. So far this year, there have been 0 items of jewelry involved in crime at my pawnshop. Last year there was only 1, with a value of \$100. Can someone please explain to me how this makes good sense?

The cities deregulation has cost me \$100,000 per year since it was enacted 4 years ago.

The cost of current record keeping requirements is \$150,000 per year.

Please do not make my business support more costs, for such little to no results. The problem with jewelry does NOT lie in the regulated shops, lets keep our eye on the ball.

Fair Deal Pawn and Gun