



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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MEMORANDUM

FROM: Mayor Sam Kooiker 
TO: City Council
DATE: December 31, 2013
SUBJECT: Acknowledgement of "Cease and Desist" request from President's Plaza, LLC

President's Plaza sent an email on Monday, December 16, to a quorum of the City Council hours before the City Council meeting. I was not included on the message – it was forwarded to me by a Council member.

The message raised some questions in my mind, and I followed up the next day since I didn't have a chance to follow-up before the City Council meeting. The Presidents Plaza developers were included on my message to Steve Baker at Dakota's Americas, Mr. Baker's response, and my "Thank you" to Mr. Baker. I then signed the 4th addendum. I had no further questions.

A plain reading of the letter from President's Plaza shows they are insisting I stop asking questions, and to not communicate with potential funding sources on this project for any reason, including simple confirmation and verification of information provided. I presume their "Cease and Desist" request also applies to all city staff, appointed board members and elected City Council members.

I am puzzled.

Dakota's Americas, and every other Community Development Entity (CDE), is given the responsibility by the federal government to provide due diligence of taxpayer resources. In addition to the millions being sought in Federal New Market Tax credits, the taxpayers of Rapid City, Pennington County and the State of South Dakota are heavily invested in this project. If millions in taxpayer funds aren't a reason to do due diligence, I'm not sure what is.

Although I did not have any further questions, I do have the right to ask questions anytime. The public expects and deserves transparency and accountability when public funds are used.

