



# RAPID CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Allender, Chief of Police

September 6, 2013

Mayor Sam Kooiker  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to explain my desire to bring Roger Brooks to Rapid City. I believe the expense is justified based on the following:

Six years ago Summer Nights began on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Downtown Rapid City. Although there has been some complaining and controversy, it is clear that the "Summer Nights" concept and general execution was a major success. Citizens of Rapid City and surrounding communities love it and attend at the rate of 10,000 to 14,000 people per event!

As the event has grown, so have the complaints about parking, street closures, drinking, and traffic flow. Some of the community and most of the Downtown merchants have divided into two groups: for and against.

I believe the event's benefits far outweigh the costs, but I am not a business person or a business expert. I am a Police Chief and someone who is invested in the "community" aspect of Rapid City. I could go on about my feelings and support for Summer Nights, but you've heard it before.

The issue at hand is whether Summer Nights provides value to Rapid City and especially the Downtown Business District. In order to expertly answer that question, I believe we need an expert to assess the situation. That expert is Roger Brooks. Mr. Brooks' resume' speaks for itself so I won't elaborate on it.

In the attached proposal provided by Mr. Brooks, he outlines the scope of his assessment. What seems to be of great value to me, is the re-assessment of the Summer Nights concept, the location, the impact positive or negative on downtown businesses and what, if any changes should be made. I encourage you to utilize this assessment as an alternative to relying on City Council authority to make significant, possibly damaging changes to Summer Nights based on their own reasoning, fueled mainly by the complaints of business owners.

We should be taking expert advice into account before we take any actions to re-engineer Summer Nights.

I am requesting that you approve the Letter of Understanding so that we can schedule Mr. Brook's trip.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Allender", written in a cursive style.

Steve Allender  
Chief of Police

vj

Attachment