



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

300 Sixth Street, Rapid City, SD 57701



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mayor Sam Kooiker

### **Mayor Kooiker announces appointment of Chief of Police**

Rapid City, S.D. - Mayor Sam Kooiker has announced the appointment of Elias Diaz to serve as Rapid City's next Chief of Police. Mr. Diaz will assume his new duties on Monday, June 16, 2014 pending confirmation by the City Council.

Diaz is currently a Lieutenant in the Rapid City Police Department. He began his employment with the Rapid City Police Department in September 1998 and has served in multiple capacities, including Patrol Officer, Traffic Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Evidence Sergeant and Professional Standards Lieutenant over

Accreditation. He taught Spanish and English as a Second Language at National American University prior to joining the Rapid City Police Department. He is a 1989 graduate of Central High School in Rapid City and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Masters College in Santa Clarita, CA. As a child, he lived for a time on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and attended Little Wound Elementary in Kyle, SD.

"I'm excited about Eli's continued contributions to our community," said Mayor Kooiker. "As our next Chief of Police, he has a wealth of experience that will greatly benefit the City and our region."

As Chief of Police, Diaz will oversee a staff of 153 FTE's, including 119 sworn officers.

**Note to Media: Mayor Kooiker will be holding a press conference in City Council Chambers this morning, Monday, June 9, 2014 at 10:45 AM to introduce Elias Diaz and answer questions.**

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