



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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MEMORANDUM

FROM: Mayor Sam Kooiker *Sam Kooiker*
TO: Rapid City Police Department
DATE: June 9, 2014
SUBJECT: Appointment of Chief of Police

Here is a brief summary of the process used to help select Rapid City's new Chief of Police.

The position was open for three weeks – from April 1 to April 23, 2014. We received 26 applications.

To assist with the task of vetting the applications, a diverse five member panel was utilized to conduct initial interviews. The task of the panel was to narrow the pool to three candidates for my consideration. The committee interviewed 11 individuals in a combination of phone and face to face interviews.

Here is a list of the panel members:

- Jamie Al-Haj – business owner, member of the Human Relations Commission, former member of the Humane Society Board, and former educator in the state of South Dakota.
- Rod Oswald – former Assistant Attorney General for South Dakota, former Pennington County Deputy State's Attorney, and a former Sergeant in the Aberdeen Police Department.
- Wanda Peacock – 22-year City of Rapid City employee (retired) and an enrolled tribal member of Lower Brule and Sioux Tribe.
- Lyndell Petersen – Chairman of the Pennington County Commission, Pennington County Extension Agent, and former State Senator.
- George Tennyson – former Pennington County Chief Deputy, and former U.S. Marshal in North and South Dakota.

I conducted individual interviews with each of the three finalists. One clear choice emerged.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Lt. Elias Diaz for this position. Press release and additional information is noted in the related attachment.



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